

Micah 7 (7-10) – This is How to Get Back Up

Intro: the backup who rose up – Micah was a pre-exilic prophet around the same time as Isaiah. Vs.8-20 are a hymn of victory. This speaks of both temporal and final restoration.

Vs.7 – **willing to pray with patience** – more than meets the eye – we will seek, we will serve, and we will supplicate. Vs.8, 10 speak of an enemy; for Micah it was the pagan nations who were against Israel. But it is also a picture of how the world and Satan oppose the church of Jesus Christ and how they oppose individual believers, who add to it by our own sin. The enemy is the world, the flesh, and the devil, but God will lift us up once again and finally for all eternity.

Vs.8 – **willing to have faith over fear** (not demand and not dismiss) – spiritually speaking we may not be on the mountain but down in the valley, out in the wilderness, cast into a dark pit, dry, dusty, discouraged, distressed, and seemingly defeated, but God raises us up. When we are down that is what we need to do, look to Him as our light, and follow the light. We tell our enemies not to rejoice over us but sometimes we forget that our greatest enemy is ourselves. It is hard to get back up when you enjoy being down. You are on the other sideline running the ball for the other team and it feels good to you, your sin, and then you wonder why you stay down, well it is because you are rejoicing against yourself. You keep yourself down and enjoy it.

Vs.9 – **willing to repent with responsibility** – we have to let God deal with us. His light shows us our sin and our shame, but it also shows us His intercession, service and sacrifice for me. We must face the reality and the depth of our sin; sometimes it is mostly our own fault that we are struck down, and we may have to go through a dark night of the soul. “UNTIL” – He decides to move and move us, He will defend our cause and accomplish justice on our behalf. He will lead us out into the light, and we will experience firsthand his deliverance. He is the One who will get it done; He will bring us out into the light. He uses this time to get our hearts right.

Vs.10 – **willing to rise with recognition** – rejoicing in God, not in revenge, but in His righteousness – Vs.19 (like the Egyptians into the Red Sea, those sins that dog us will be drown in the sea of God’s forgiveness). We have to stay out of the streets or we end up down in the dumps again. We will expect (vs.8), and then we will experience (vs.9). You will see (vs.9), and then the enemy will see (vs.10) – as Christians we see God’s victory now, we know His righteousness will prevail, but the enemies of God will be cast down as they will all finally see God’s final and ultimate triumph over all enemies as we all will behold the glory of God, some to everlasting joy and others to everlasting shame. It is His victory, and we partake of it.

Jesus was down there with you, and we hear the faint cry of the Savior in these verses (Colossians 2:13-15), Christ was down but He rose again. We will sometimes be down but we will never be out of our Father’s love for us in His Son, we too will rise again to immortality and everlasting joy. In order to rise we need the Risen One. We still have repentance to do, restitution to seek, restoration to build upon. But we act *from* forgiveness, we don’t act *for* it. We are truly guilty, but we have been declared righteous, and God brings us to Him after we see both sides of that miraculous equation. Whatever the issues may be, the single issue has been forever settled in your favor. Rise up to Him in faith. We have nothing of ourselves to boast about, but we can always be boasting of the cross, what God has done for us in Christ. It is the reason why we can rejoice in Christ with one another. It means that I can believe in you because you believe in God. Others may count you out but the game isn’t over, and we are on the winning team. We are justified by faith, and we can live by that same faith. The world, the flesh, and the devil, all these enemies can bring you down, but only Christ can get you back up. The wonderful thing is that even when your enemies do get you down, rejoice, because Christ WILL get you back up.