

- ii. Anyone who can take the worst that Rome can offer and overcome it, is a threat. Anyone who believes that the emperor isn't the final answer, is a threat.

- iii. Parable of the Stewards (Luke 12:42-43)

#### IV. The Always Faithful, Never Missing God (7:7)

- A. Micah's strength in this time is the same strength that is ours.
  
- B. International Justice Missions ([www.ijm.org/fp](http://www.ijm.org/fp))

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- When Jesus came to earth (incarnation) what was He looking for that He could not find?
- How does Jeremiah 5:1 describe in a literal way what Micah 7:1 describes in a metaphorical way?
- How does our text help us see how that, by the time of the New Testament, the poor began to be associated with the faithful?
- When we read “Christ” why should we also think in terms of “King?”
- Why do you think Jesus' and His followers are a threat to unjust leaders and rulers? What about Jesus' mission might make them insecure in their power?
- **How does 'the death and resurrection of Jesus' provide a threat to tyrants and a weapon to believers today?**
- Why do you think that (at least, it seems that) believers often act as if the justice that was so important to God in the Old Testament is suddenly not important in the New?

#### Who is Like God? (Part 9)

##### *Missing Justice*

Jerry Cisar — September 24, 2017

Text: Micah 7:1-7

#### Introduction

- A. See if you can identify the common missing element.
  - i. Matthew 7:18-21
  - ii. Luke 13:6-9
  - iii. Matthew 21:18-19
- B. What kind of fruit did Jesus expect to find?

#### I. Missing Fruit (7:1)

- A. Micah mourns the fact that he cannot find any fruit to eat.
  - i. Jeremiah 5:1
    - a) Genesis 18:22-33
    - b) Jesus is King of kings and Lord of Lords—every human power must submit to His justice or He will intervene.
  - ii. Micah is mourning because the lack of fruit means judgment—the end of the people as he knows it.
- B. Isaiah talks about this vineyard also and has the same kinds of concerns. (Isaiah 5:1-8).
  - i. Bad fruit consists of bloodshed, cries of distress, and the accumulation of wealth at the expense of the poor.

- ii. Why did Micah or Isaiah—YHWH—expect this kind of fruit?
  - a) Genesis 18:18-19
  - b) Exodus 19:5-6

C. Jesus Cursing the Fig Tree

## II. Missing Faithful (7:2-4a)

- A. Fruit was missing because the faithful were missing.
  - i. The *faithful* have been swept from the land.
    - a) They are missing because they have quite literally been swept from the land!
    - b) They are also missing because those leaders who were called to be faithful, to bring justice, are bringing wickedness, or at best, accepting the status quo and doing nothing.
  - ii. 7:2: “*there is no one upright among mankind (Adam)*” ESV
    - a) One *cannot* be faithful to the covenant and be fruitless.
      - Micah 6:8
    - b) Faithfulness means that the Kingdom of God and His justice, His righteous ways of living are sought first, not all the stuff we want and even need. (Matthew 6:33)

B. What do *thorns and briars* look like?

- i. Everyone is out for themselves.
  - a) “*Everyone lies in wait to shed blood,*” is both literal and metaphorical.

*Unbridled power in the hands of sinful people, is what keeps slavery in force today.*

- b) “*they hunt a brother with a net.*”

➤ Exodus 12:37-38

- ii. In place of the faithful were the powerful.

## III. Missing Friends and Family (7:4b-6)

- A. Jesus used this in Luke 12:51-53.
  - i. The watchmen of Israel are the true prophets.
  - ii. The day of visitation, the day of the watchmen, is the day of accounting and vindication of the watchmen.
- B. When the justice of God's ways goes unheeded, the judgment is that confusion sets in and everyone is out for themselves.
- C. Why does Jesus' role as the Christ call for the use this saying?
  - i. Jesus confronts every earthly kingdom and power anywhere they are unjust.
    - a) Jesus' mission involves bringing “justice to the nations” (Isaiah 42:1).
    - b) Jesus will beat their instruments of oppression into means of feeding the hungry (Micah 4:3).