

# SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

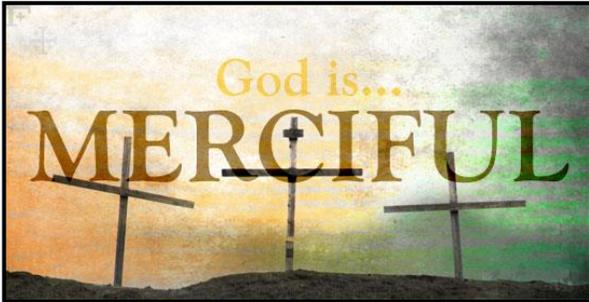
## THEME: GOD DEMANDS JUSTICE

### UNIT II– APPEALS TO THE UNJUST FOR JUSTICE

#### “A MERCIFUL GOD FOR A MISGUIDED PEOPLE”

Sunday School Lesson No. VIII – July 26, 2015

Rev. Frank A Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Micah 7:1-20 (NLT)

Motto Text: Micah 7:18 (NLT), “Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people? You will not stay angry with your people forever, because you delight in showing unfailing love.”

Required Reading: Micah 7

**Reliable Resources:** Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI); Word-Search 10 Electronic Library System; Standard Lesson Commentary; The Tim LaHaye Prophecy Bible; The Outline Bible by H. L. Willmington; Children’s Ministry Resource Bible; Jeremiah Study Bible Notes; Logos Bible Software

#### LESSON INTRODUCTION

“The Minor Prophets, while warning Israel and Judah repeatedly, always included reassurance that the day was coming when God would restore them to the glorious position they once had with Him. It has now been many centuries since these messages were originally delivered, but the promises given to Israel still hold and will be fulfilled.” (Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, during His earthly ministry, gave us a parable that parallels the situation of our lesson today. It can be read in Luke 15:11-24. In gist, this parable shows us a great picture of “A Merciful God for a Misguided People.”

Now let us examine our Anticipated Power Points:

- **God’s Mercy in Spite of Israel’s Sins. Micah 7:1-7**
- **God’s Mercy in Spite of Israel’s Shame. Micah 7:8-13**
- **God’s Mercy Illustrated like a Shepherd. Micah 7:14-17**
- **God’s Mercy Cleanses Iniquity and Offers Salvation. Micah 7:18-20**

#### LESSON OUTLINE

##### **I. God’s Mercy in Spite of Israel’s Sins. Micah 7:1-7**

H. L. Willmington writes, “Micah bemoaned Israel’s sad moral condition...So deep was Israel’s sin that it had disrupted all interpersonal relationships.” Micah 7:1-7 (NLT), “*How miserable I am! I feel like the fruit picker after the harvest who can find nothing to eat. Not a cluster of grapes or a single early fig can be found to satisfy my hunger. The godly people have all disappeared; not one honest person is left on the earth. They are all murderers, setting traps even for their own brothers. Both their hands are equally skilled at doing evil! Officials and judges alike demand bribes. The people with influence get what they want, and together they scheme to twist justice. Even the best of them is like a brier; the most honest is as dangerous as a hedge of thorns. But your judgment day is coming swiftly now. Your time of punishment is here, a time of confusion. Don’t trust anyone - not your best friend or even your wife! For the son despises his father. The daughter defies her mother. The daughter-in-law defies her mother-in-law. Your enemies are right in your own household! As for me, I look to the LORD for help. I wait confidently for God to save me, and my God will certainly hear me.*” As Micah surveyed the situation of his people, sin had left a true scare of sin and shame, and there was nothing or no one who could be relied on for a living or satisfaction.

A. In verse 1, the harvest and food would be lost.

- B. In verses 2-6, the relationships of people like preachers, politicians, judges and even as intimate as family, had become twisted, traitor-like and tainted! God knows sin had left its finger print in every venue of human society. Remember Romans 6:23, *“The wages of sin is death...”*
- C. In verse 7, there is only one hope for Israel’s humanity. It is the Lord’s Redeemer who would rescue the Remnant. Isaiah 59:20 tells us, *“And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.”*

**II. God’s Mercy in Spite of Israel’s Shame. Micah 7:8-13**

Micah believed in God’s mercy even though Israel would definitely experience God’s hand of chastisement and shame. Micah, who numbers himself among the shameful multitude, bears the word of warning to Israel’s enemies as well as the Nation itself. Note verses 8-10: he is numbered with the transgressors. That’s a loving brother! All of God’s true shepherds identify with God’s sheep. Moses, David, and even Christ Himself, as we read in Isaiah 53:4-9. Micah challenges those who will witness and participate in the chastening of God’s remnant that they be mindful. Micah 7:9-13 (NLT), *“I will be patient as the LORD punishes me, for I have sinned against him. But after that, he will take up my case and give me justice for all I have suffered from my enemies. The LORD will bring me into the light, and I will see his righteousness. Then my enemies will see that the LORD is on my side. They will be ashamed that they taunted me, saying, ‘So where is the LORD - that God of yours’ With my own eyes I will see their downfall; they will be trampled like mud in the streets. In that day, Israel, your cities will be rebuilt, and your borders will be extended. People from many lands will come and honor you - from Assyria all the way to the towns of Egypt, from Egypt all the way to the Euphrates River, and from distant seas and mountains. But the land will become empty and desolate because of the wickedness of those who live there.”* Micah looks many years ahead to inform Israel and her captives that God Jehovah keeps His promises. The fulfillment of Israel’s raising will come in the Millennial Kingdom, but the most important thing is that God will erase their sin and shame. (Read Zechariah 2:4-5)

**III. God’s Mercy Illustrated like a Shepherd. Micah 7:14-17**

Micah wrote in 5:2, *“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.”* A Ruler, a Shepherd, a Deliverer will come and in God’s time bring hope, help and healing to God’s covenant people. His mercy would be evident externally: *“He shall feed His flock like a Shepherd.”* (Read Isaiah 40:11 and shout, because the Shepherd of Israel is the Shepherd of David’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm!). The awesomeness of Israel’s Shepherd will silence the mouths of all nations. Micah 7:16 (NLT), *“All the nations of the world will stand amazed at what the LORD will do for you. They will be embarrassed at their feeble power. They will cover their mouths in silent awe, deaf to everything around them.”*

**IV. God’s Mercy Cleanses Iniquity and Offers Salvation. Micah 7:18-20**

Micah, like many of the sages of old, asks the rhetorical question of verse 18a (KJV), *“Who is a God like unto thee?”* or as it is written in the NLT, *“Where is another God like you, who pardons the guilt of the remnant, overlooking the sins of his special people?”* The Bible Knowledge Commentary says that Micah shares six things about God’s mercy from verses 18-20.

- A. He pardons the sin and transgression of His Remnant.
- B. He will not remain angry with His Remnant. (Psalm 103:9)
- C. He will show mercy. (Micah 7:20)
- D. The Lord will show compassion. (Zechariah 10:6)
- E. The Lord will put Israel’s sins under His foot and cast their sins in the Sea of Complete Forgiveness (7:18-19).
- F. The Lord will perform this mercy because He cannot lie!”

Beloved, let us not forget our merciful God who, according to His own sovereignty, extends forgiveness and deliverance to all He desires.

**CLOSING:**

Read what Paul writes to the Christians in Romans 8:33-39. Remember beloved, “Our God is an Awesome God, He reigns from Heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, Our God is an Awesome God.”

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**TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead:**

**August 2, 2015**

**Isaiah 59:15-21**

**Noonday Bible Study will not be held in July. Noonday study will resume on Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.**

