

1. Woe: It is Right to Grieve the Catastrophe of Sin Within Us and Around Us
 - a. similar to both Isaiah and Job (woe)
 - i. Isaiah 6:5 and Job 10:15
 - b. woe is a pronouncement of doom, impending disaster upon someone coming from someone greater
 - i. He dooms himself
 - c. This doom is expressed because of the dried up, shriveled nature of his soul
 - i. like an already gleaned vineyard
 - ii. there is no sustenance of joy which his soul searches for among his people
 - iii. instead he finds only selfish men bent upon their own evil desires and the plans suited to such
 1. The result of such evil is confusion:
 - a. Whom to trust?
 - b. There is nobody you can trust!
 2. Imagine a world whereby you could trust nobody, for betrayal, dishonesty, violence, selfishness runs rampant
 - d. Micah laments his culture's demise, both in his current day and for the discipline that is coming from the LORD because of it
 - i. This is much like Jesus, who lamented the hardness of heart of his own people in his day, particularly the leaders
 1. Thus He judged them with hard words (Matthew 23, prt. vv29-39), even following His triumphal march into Jerusalem
 2. Knowing that He was heading to the cross, to be excruciatingly executed for their sins, out of the great love of God for them, He mourned over their hardness, knowing also the destruction that was coming upon that generation (destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD by Titus)
 - ii. He also knew that He was going to bear up the sins of His people, thus avenging all the righteous blood spilled by His people
2. Wait: Proclaim the Gospel to Yourself in Times of Trouble
 - a. “As for me”
 - i. Though I am sinful and broken (I am doomed)
 - ii. Though the world around me is sinful and chaotic
 - b. I will look to the LORD
 - i. Micah finds his hope in seeing the LORD
 - c. I will wait for the God of my salvation
 - i. Waiting for the LORD is difficult, so Micah has to preach to himself
 - ii. Though he cannot see the LORD today, He knows that He is coming, that He is not far off
 - d. My God will hear me
 - i. “my”
 1. He knows his relationship with the LORD
 2. We typically use the title “God” without the “my”
 3. By using “my” Micah reveals his trust in the LORD, his love for the LORD
 - ii. “God”
 1. Micah acknowledges the power and right of the LORD over him
 2. He is not complaining or blaming God, but remembers that He is sovereign and that He is powerful, while Micah is but a man
 - iii. “hears”

1. God hears his children's cries, knows their woes, and listens for their prayers
2. What grace! What glorious mercy that God would hear for Micah's cries for salvation
 - a. One cannot stress enough the incredible gift that this is. God hears us! We have a God, the Mighty One who created all that has been created, listens to our cries.
 - b. Meditate on that to bring your ego down to size and to encourage your anxious self-pitying soul
- e. Though I fall, I will rise/Though in darkness, the LORD is my light
 - i. This is a prime example of preaching the gospel to yourself
 - ii. When your soul is tired and overwhelmed and your circumstances are dire, it is time to take your feelings to the LORD and preach the good news to your Self
 1. Preach the Law to yourself: Though I fall in darkness
 - a. The Law shows us who God is
 - i. He is holy, just, compassionate, kind, good, mighty, eternal, right, powerful, pure, gracious, etc.
 - b. The Law shows us who we are
 - i. We are created, finite, glorious as God's image bearers, unique in creation, yet fallen, sinful, selfish, broken, weak, profane, precious to the Lord, called, etc.
 - c. The Law shows us what God desires
 - i. The Law shows us what is right
 - ii. The Law shows us what is wrong
 - iii. The Law shows us what we need
 2. Preach the Gospel to yourself: I will rise for the LORD is my light
 - a. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus applied to your specific place and feelings
 - b. The Gospel is not something that you do, it is something that you believe, and therefore is a message that you must learn to herald to your own soul
 - c. Jesus as Substitute
 - i. He is my life and death
 1. He is my righteousness and became my sin
 2. He kept God's righteous Law when I could not, and applied His obedience to me, being unified with Him by faith
 3. I can go confidently before the Father because of His death and resurrected life and ask for what I need right now
 - ii. He is my victory over death and suffering and loss b/c he is victorious over my sin
 1. He gives me courage and strength to persevere because He has defeated death and lives today!
 2. The same Spirit that raised Him also dwells in me and empowers me to follow Him, loving God with all of me and loving others as myself.
 3. In the end, I will be raised up to be like Him in wholeness, shalom, the way I am supposed to be
 - iii. He is my hope
 1. Nothing can separate me from the love of God because of Jesus Christ, my Lord.
 2. I am never too far gone, and my situation is never so broken that God will let go of me or push me away, for I am in Christ
 - iv. He is my strength

1. In Him I can know and live rightly (wisdom)
 2. In Him I am being transformed to be like Him, the mature man, to love like Him, serve like Him, trust like Him, etc.
- d. Example from Joe Thorn's book, *Note to Self*, on *Jesus is Enough*:
- “Dear Self,
- "...When you find your deepest satisfaction in Jesus, you are protected from bitterness in times of want and pride in times of abundance. The world and all good gifts within it are temporal blessings. For you, Christian, their presence should remind you of the Giver, and their absence should remind you of that which never fades away nor can be taken away."

3. Worship: See God's Provision in Christ

- a. Look at the gospel in Micah!
 - i. Law: "I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against Him"
 - ii. Gospel: "until *He pleads my case and executes judgment for me.*"
 1. Whoa! I sin against Him and He pleads my case for me!
 2. This is the glorious gospel that is founded upon God's sovereign grace and fulfilled through God's Son, Jesus Christ
 - a. We sinned against God and God executed justice upon Jesus in our place so that we would be brought out of darkness into light
 - b. Colossians 1:11-14!
- b. How do we respond to such grand news that God has pled our case and justly justified us?
- c. We respond with grateful worship
 - i. "Who is a God like you?"

Conclusion:

Learning to preach the gospel to ourselves in the times when we fall down and dishonor the One who redeemed us is vital. When our circumstances of life become oppressive because of others' sins against us, we must learn to preach the whole gospel to our selves so that our eyes are focused not upon our own self-righteousness, but upon the Holy God who has forgiven us our own great sins against Him through sentencing Himself in our place. When we succumb to fear, and our anxious worries have stymied our attempts to serve the Lord and others, we are learning to proclaim to our own hearts the reality of our weaknesses and the glorious mighty strength of Christ, His deep love, and God's great grace towards us in an eternal conviction that we are His children now, and forever. May the Law slay our pride and the Gospel fill us with hopeful worship and the fullness of joy in Christ. This is all of God, the One more gracious than we could ever dare to imagine! Amen.

1 Peter 1:3-5