



Therefore I will look to YHWH; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Micah 7:7

...Therefore I will look to YHWH

In the last several years I have been on a journey to look at Believers who stayed faithful (and triumphant even) in the midst of great suffering and hardship. This is largely because I believe the Scriptures speak of a time of greatest shaking (and glory) that is yet ahead of us, and I personally do not feel prepared for that time. One of the challenging chapters for me has been Micah 7 where the prophet describes dire conditions in his day (Micah 7:1-6) that Yeshua used (Mark 13:9-14) as a springboard to eschatologically describe the times yet to come. In Micah's time the rulers, judges, and influential people were all corrupt (7:3-4) and the righteous leaders were nowhere to be seen (7:2). Also, Micah described the family unit that was broken down with hatred

and betrayal (7:5-6) within the place intended by God to provide the most significant safety and support.

But then the prophet says something weighty and profound.

Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.

This prints up nice on a placard in our bathroom, but the living of this, takes significant diligence.

Therefore... In light of the breakdown of godliness within society and in some of the closest filial relationships. Because of these pressures and challenges...

I will look to the LORD...

Our knee-jerk response to increasing pressure is to “look to” (be preoccupied with) the people who mistreat us, the escalating crisis in the culture, or the governmental leaders or laws that perpetuate the pressures and pain in life and in society. While it is true that in a democracy we should try to change sinful laws in our government, we should do so in the midst of being more preoccupied with God as our primary source. It is important to note that Micah gives this faith-filled declaration not in the context of a constitutional republic but under a godless ruler. This will work for any Believer in even the most repressive of governments.

Looking to the Lord involves being very intentional at regularly redirecting our thoughts and affections towards Him as our primary source. This regular redirection involves quality (and quantity!) time as we “bring our words” to Him. This habitual practice will crowd out a number of other “lesser loves.” I can easily tell when this God-time gets crowded out. It’s also interesting to note that God calls us to ask for “daily bread.” Yesterday’s manna won’t bring the needed nourishment for today...and tomorrow we'll need fresh "bread" from Him again.

The repetitive pastoral counsel that Yeshua gave in the context of the coming end times pressures was to watch and pray. Nine times in the Scripture Jesus exhorted His people to “watch” related to end-times pressures (Mt. 24:42; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33, 34, 35, 37; Lk. 21:36; Rev. 16:15). Four times, He

combined the call as: “to watch and pray” (Mt. 26:41; Mk. 13:33, 38; Lk. 21:36).

I will wait for God...

We will trust God’s timing and refuse to be offended by the painful delays. The “watching and praying” is again to have a daily application. As we grow in the living understanding of the biblical pressures and dynamics by being prayerfully in His Word (watching), we will have a growing confidence to wait on Him for the necessary endurance.

My God will hear me...

In this statement there is confident declaration that the divine validation will come. This statement also presupposes that we are persistently talking to God in the midst of our troubles...knowing that in His timing and process the tables will turn and our faith will be sight.

In closing, this verse is only the first of seven responses that Micah gives as a divine antidote to the turbulence of his day. This is a rich chapter and well-worth spending some time prayerfully meditating on.