

“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!” Micah 7:3-5 NLT

lectio // Micah 7:1-7

Micah hits a wall and it hits back. Things have gotten so bad in Israel that all human relationships and interactions have turned to “everyone for themselves.” Such an enlightened time, right? Such a highlight and bright spot in human history, right? Micah just gives us a glimpse of humanity running without laws, rules and godly governance. EVERYONE is scared of losing! Losing power, wealth, influence and basic necessities of life - the people on top turn to utterly selfish behavior to protect what little they have and possibly even get ahead in total chaos and crisis. Such a sad statement, “the people of influence get what they want.” They always get what they want, but it just makes it sickeningly clear that we would consciously do that in a total collapse of structure. This is us - when you remove just a few entitled elements: safety, order, food and money. Sound familiar? Yep, it’s like any other day in in any modern country in the world - even the United States. We’re not really as advanced as we thought!

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pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Oddly, this is encouraging for me to read. It’s good news because I hear and read so much about how we are good humans and getting better! We are not good humans and we are not getting better. Oh if we just fixed the environment and the racial inequality and the protective rights for any all all behavioral and moral decisions. If we just let each individual be guided by their own truth and do anything they believe is right and shame or cancel anyone and everyone who disagrees THEN the world would be right and we would have no need of God. I read Micah’s writings and warnings and I think, “nope,” we’ll do what we’ve always done without you - selfishly destroy ourselves and everyone around us, even those we “love.” May justice come from you and for all God, let your kingdom come quickly. It’s just cyclically nasty here.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root