

Week of September 16, 2009
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Monday

Mic. 4:5 Though all the peoples walk each in the name of his god,
As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

Withstanding the pressures to compromise our faith-values is genuinely difficult. Peer pressure is not merely a teenage phenomena but one that besets us throughout life. The world makes it hard to resist materialism, the lust of the eyes that we so easily fall prey to. It's hard to guard against blatant sins like lying, adultery, and theft. Even harder, there are the subtle compromises that we are tempted to make everyday like listening to or passing along gossip or inappropriate stories, unwholesome speech, negative words. But we are not to walk as others, following after their gods. We are to bear the image of Jesus forever.

Tuesday

Mic. 6:7 Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

We want so much to 'do something' to fix our sins. We want to brag "I have fixed the rift between myself and God." But God is not looking for your payment. Even a thousand rams would not pay your debt. Even the sacrifice of your own children will not redeem you. But "God so loved the world that He gave His own son..." How should you respond? In surrendered love. In a gratitude that leads to humble service to God and His kingdom. With unending praise and thanks-giving. With complete trust. He is not looking for your sacrifice. He is looking for you!

Wednesday

Mic. 4:10 ...And go to Babylon. There you will be rescued;
There the LORD will redeem you From the hand of your enemies.

Sometimes, that which seems the worst that could happen, in reality is the best that we could hope for. Such was exile to Babylon for the people of Judah. It was in Babylon that God's people finally determined that God *would be the Lord of their daily lives*. Before the tragedy of Babylon, they wavered, they wandered, they pursued other gods. After Babylon they threw away their idols and became a devoted people. No doubt Babylon was a tragedy, but it was also a blessing. Is God using some hardship, difficulty, or judgment to bring you to Himself -- finally?

Thursday

Mic. 7:2 The godly person has perished from the land,
And there is no upright person among men.

Or so it seemed. And this is the horror of our day. God's people do not often bear clear the distinguishing marks of God's holy character in their daily lives. The world cries out, because they do not see Jesus in us. There is no difference. Many wonder if the godly person has not perished from the land, the person who pursues God above all else, who lives out God's grace and righteousness in relationships, who is faithful to family, to friends, to God. Will you be proof that the godly person has not perished? Will you determine to live for Jesus in every aspect of your life?

Friday

Mic. 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation.

One of the hardest habits to grow into: expectant waiting. Yet the walk of faith often requires that you wait upon the Lord. The truth is, His timing is seldom our timing. Until you learn to wait expectantly, you will wonder if God has forgotten you. He has not! You will worry that He does not love you. He does! You will expect that He should move at your command. He will not; *you should move at His*. When you learn to wait expectantly, you will find release. You will anticipate His wonder. You will marvel at His abilities. Rest in God's Spirit and enjoy His peace, which is not comprehensible to those who have not learned to wait expectantly.