

***Lament and Repent - Micah 7:1-17***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

"When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said 'Repent,' He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." This is the first of the 95 Theses posted by Martin Luther on the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31, 1517 sparking the Reformation. Luther's point is fairly simple, followers of Jesus are always living in the beautiful tension of being changed while also having the sinfulness of our sin revealed. The ability to repent is one of God's greatest and kindest gifts He has given His people.

To repent is to turn. It's Harry and Lloyd from the movie *Dumb and Dumber* (sorry for the movie reference for those of you who don't watch movies) "Driving 1/6 of the way across the country in the wrong direction," and as a result losing any hope of actually arriving at their destination in Aspen, Colorado. Any hope of arriving is going to take more than just turning around, so one of them loses hopes and tries to walk home. The other though, sells their ridiculous van to buy a scooter and together they turn and go a different direction. And not just any direction, they head in the direction of Aspen, their intended destination. Likewise, the word "repent" involves a realization of a doomed direction in life and a turning, not just in any direction but in the intended direction, the path of faith in Jesus.

Repentance is way more than just getting a fresh start and turning over a new leaf. In the Bible people are commanded to repent of their sin, their idolatry, their oppression and injustice. But they are also commanded to repent of their righteous works and self-salvation experiments. In other words, there are two ways to head 1/6 of the way across our lives in the wrong direction. One is sinful rebellion, but the other is religious performance. Repentance is our changing direction, turning from something and to someone. It involves God's gift of conviction, the Holy Spirit's work of revealing the sinfulness of our sin and hopelessness of our own efforts to save self. In His kindness God shows us the devastation of our sin and the worthlessness of our righteous acts (they are like filthy menstrual rags, Isaiah 64:6). Then He invites us to see Jesus as our righteous sacrifice for sin. Repentance is the turning from our sin and self-salvation and turning to Jesus as our hope, redemption, Kingdom, and aim. When I truly walk in repentance I am giving myself over the purpose and will of Christ in life and following Him.

Repentance is absolutely necessary for our salvation, a person cannot be authentically saved without repentance. The consistent call of the New Testament for those who need salvation is a charge to "repent and believe the Gospel." Turning from sin and self and turning to Jesus is the essence of salvation. Sadly, so many are offering a form of Jesus that has our Savior doing little more than affirming our life choices, supporting our idols, and blessing our self-defined identities. When we offer the Gospel to people it must come with a call to repentance and faith. Furthermore, repentance is also necessary for our sanctification and growth in the Gospel. The walk of the Christian life involves daily, or I should say, constantly seeing and turning from my sin and self and turning back to Jesus. We will not arrive at perfection until we reach glory. Until then, all of life is repentance.

In chapter seven, the tone and voice of Micah changes. Until this point the audience has been the people of God with God as the source. In chapter 7 Micah turns his voice to God in an incredible prayer of lament and repentance. He does confess his own sin, reminding us that repentance is personal. But he also stands in the place of God's people offering repentance on their behalf. In this we see both the beauty and necessity of corporate repentance. In other words, in His grace God will open my eyes to see my own sin and need for grace. So I continually need to repent of personal sin. But I also live in a specific culture and belong to Christ's church in a specific time. The culture is always sinful, and the people of God will find ways to drift and fail to represent Christ well. So repentance

also involves our confession of and turning from the sin, idolatry, and self-righteousness in these corporate entities.

Finally, repentance always involves four things we find in this passage. First there is godly sorrow for our sin. Too often we are sad if we get caught or experience the consequences for our sin. But true repentance begins when our sorrow is rooted in the beauty and glory of Jesus and our broken relationship with Him. Second, repentance includes confession of sin. We need to name our sin, clearly confess the sinfulness of the actual things we are doing. Third, repentance is turning to Jesus in faith and obedience. It is handing the keys to my life back to the only one who will not drive it into a ditch. Finally, repentance includes having our eyes open to the goodness, grace, and blessings of Christ. In other words, repentance, continual repentance is not a dark depressive thing. It is the path to glory, to seeing Jesus, to finding His love and mercy. So may we be a people who discover that all of life is repentance!

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Judges 7	Judges 8	Judges 9	Judges 10	Judges 11	Judges 12	Judges 13

Reading from this past week: Micah 7:1-17

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Micah 7:18-20

**Family Worship**

Song - *Great are you Lord*

<https://youtu.be/ZOcf5AhtV5w?si=VSpOnmrl0VdX0IEr>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Death & Resurrection of Jesus

Story: Jesus was raised

Big Picture Question: How is Jesus the perfect King?

Answer: Jesus perfectly rules over the universe as the King of Kings.

Scripture: John 19-20

New City Catechism

Question #47: Does the Lord's Supper add anything to Christ's atoning work?

Answer: No, Christ dies once for all.

Verse: 1 Peter 3:18

Scripture

Micah 7:1-17

- What does the word "woe" mean (v. 1)? What is the reason for Micah's woe?
- What is repentance? How is this text an example of repentance? Why is repentance necessary for our salvation? For our daily sanctification?
- What are the sins Micah confesses in this text? Why is confession necessary for true repentance?
- How does this text show us the blessings of repentance and the promises associated with our turning?
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Prayer

\*Spend time this week processing personal, corporate, and national repentance.

\*Set aside time this week to be thankful.