

## The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;  
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;  
 Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;  
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee.  
 Amen.

*<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

In the Name of Jesus.

Jesus makes His own the Word of the Lord that happened to the prophet Micah. Micah 7; the prophet is upset!

<sup>2</sup> The godly has perished from the earth,  
     and there is no one upright among mankind;  
 they all lie in wait for blood,  
     and each hunts the other with a net.

<sup>3</sup> Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well;  
     the prince and the judge ask for a bribe,  
 and the great man utters the evil desire of his soul;  
     thus they weave it together.

<sup>4</sup> The best of them is like a brier,  
     the most upright of them a thorn hedge.  
 The day of your watchmen, of your punishment, has come;  
     now their confusion is at hand.

<sup>5</sup> Put no trust in a neighbor;  
     have no confidence in a friend;  
 guard the doors of your mouth  
     from her who lies in your arms;

<sup>6</sup> for the son treats the father with contempt,  
     the daughter rises up against her mother,

the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

<sup>7</sup> But as for me, I will look to the LORD;  
I will wait for the God of my salvation;  
my God will hear me. <sup>1</sup>

I've been sucked and suckered into enough family knife-fights to love Proverbs 26:17, <sup>17</sup> Whoever meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a passing dog by the ears.<sup>2</sup>

No need to grab them ears! When swords are drawn, you already know what's what: This man is 100% right; and that man is 100% right! Just ask him! And him!

There ARE senseless people who need to be kept away from sharp objects. But most people do not start slicing out of misfires in the brain.

When son and father quarrel, each has--ask him!--a perfectly sound reason. And that is, 'I am RIGHT and YOU am WRONG!'

(Micah and Jesus say that ladies also quarrel. But even I am not foolish enough to approach swordswomen in action. I assume that the elder lady is burdened with 100% out of whack little missies; and the young ladies, though they are 100% justified, cannot get in touch with the old-fashioned and out of touch.)

Your poor pastor waves you off of being a Jesus-fanatic. I read what everybody blabs about Jesus' words, 'For my sake; love others more than me...' And ALL that our OLD Man inside can do is to hop to....WHATEVER!...in fear of punishment, in hope of reward.

This all boils down so simply and happily; too much for our foolish old nature. Micah preached Law because He was Old

---

<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mic 7:2–7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

<sup>2</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Pr 26:17). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Testament-ish, mostly. Jesus is not Moses, nor Micah, nor any other grouser!

YEA. He came to bring a SWORD! Next time we hear of SWORD....ugh!

“Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword back into its place.’”

Without ‘EARS,’ how will they hear?

Do NOT fall for all the books I read! Jesus is NOT laying an ultimatum on you or me! 'You better be FOR ME--or ELSE!'

HE is where ultimatum hangs! He is saying, 'I, JESUS--I BETTER be FOR YOU--or ELSE! Ignore any other final word on you!'

Who KNOWS this? Help us, good Spirit!

Even Micah did NOT preach to teach ANY...OTHER...MAN, how to moan and groan about how society is going to pot! And family! And respect! And government! And citizenry! Oh! And, 'If ONLY.....!' Ugh!

Micah preached that even those who were SUPPOSED to be close and clinging--LOVE!--cleaving to each other, no matter what, were cut and torn apart; bleeding; counter-attacking.

Micah proclaimed what he saw, what God saw--for a REASON! To reach for and beg for and DEMAND the Lord for:

the One Who came and IS the Gospel! THIS Gospel!

The final words from Micah. 'He lives! He lives!'

<sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over transgression  
for the remnant of his inheritance?

He does not retain his anger forever,  
because he delights in steadfast love.

<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.

<sup>20</sup> You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and steadfast love to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our fathers  
from the days of old. <sup>3</sup>

Latin lesson for the day. Inside the word 'excruciating' is the word 'crux;' Latin for cross. When you ARE THERE for Mr X or Mrs Y and it's killing you, see heaven torn open! 'My child! Well done! You're doing it!'

When the Lord Jesus centers all division on HIM, love of HIM, He speaks of the cross--the cross of the DISCIPLE! And now we know!

What WE bring to the table is fit only for the Law and Moses and Micah's laments! WE can cause SOME pain.

But, the Gospel! Oh, the Gospel we CANNOT control!

What Micah saw from afar, what the Lord brings among us--that TRULY PAINS that creature WE ARE that just CANNOT STAND to be RIGHT but be WRONGED! Maybe WORSE: how IT KILLS US that those IN THE WRONG, CLEARLY WRONG!!!!---force the way they are wrong on the rest of us, as if

---

<sup>3</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mic 7:18–20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

THEIR WRONGNESS is RIGHT! (Yes, I read the news.)

Happily, that cross is laid on us by gentle water and the unbelievable name; and the eternal call: I mean YOU! MY cross is truly, truly yours! Like this:

<sup>15</sup> Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?” <sup>18</sup> For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. <sup>19</sup> Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.” <sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> And he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” <sup>25</sup> And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” <sup>26</sup> Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified. <sup>4</sup>

My dear ones, admit it. Confess your sins for your miserable minister.

There is a pain or a sting in your insides, in your neck, that the murderer is saved and the Prince of Life is slain! I feel it too. It is EX-CROSS-CIATING! Too much to bear: all what's WRONG with the SYSTEM! 'And don't get me started on ol' Pompous Pilot!'

---

<sup>4</sup> [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 27:15–26). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

The Holy Spirit reveals that we have that pain, simply because we are, as Jesus says, NOT worthy of Him! We...have...NO...GRASP...AT...ALL of the Spirit's Thing: the Gospel; in a Word, Jesus!

That is why, even where LOVE most naturally belongs, RIGHT and WRONG force their reign; and what HE is all about, His Kingdom--when do we ever get to that?

Fear not! HE got to it! And here's His treatment, His medication, His therapy:

'Treat the next man--AS WRONG AS HE IS!--treat him AS.....WRONG! YOU treat HIM as YOU is TREATED by your Father in heaven!

As someone Jesus' Spirit has plenty to forgive, plenty to teach, in need! Then, no matter what--for Cross's sake!-- 100% RIGHT gives way to 100% WRONG. Say! Doesn't EVERYONE need, every day...howzabout: a drink of water?'

'He only will with patience chide. His rod falls gently down. And all our sins He casts aside in ocean depths to drown.'

HIS cross:

<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” <sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” <sup>48</sup> And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” <sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. <sup>5</sup>

Our cross?

---

<sup>5</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 27:45–50). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

'Couldja try being like the sour wine guy there with Jesus?  
Well done! His cross meets your cross! Good start! Look close!  
LIFE is right there; inside there!'

The Lord's Supper is called the Eucharist, our Thanksgiving.  
For with His Body and His Blood, Jesus does the right-est, wrong-  
est thing of all. HE is right and WE is wrong and HE gives us His  
Body and His Blood and WE...CONSUME.....Well, ONE of us got  
it right!!

He is FOR Israel. Now, by His cross--and our own--not just  
a remnant! No! For all! And now, to the nations! Now, not  
some! Now, all of them! Now, all of US: even when, now, it is  
excruciating in the Name of Jesus.