

Micah 6:1-8 - *“Remember”* - Pr. Kurt A. VanFossan - Epiphany 4A 2023

In year’s past I’ve preached on the Gospel and Epistle readings for today. But for this morning I’m going to focus on the OT reading from Micah to help emphasize how the whole Bible, New and OT, fits together to reveal to us *“the saving acts of the LORD.”*

Micah begins by saying, *“Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.”* The LORD was speaking to His people. Evidently they were going through some difficult times in their lives, and they were blaming God for their troubles. So God tells them to plead their case before the mountains—before the whole world. God doesn’t tell us what was troubling the people at that time, so we can fill in the blank with whatever is troubling us, and plead our case.

Then, after God and the world has heard their/our complaints, it will be God’s turn to respond, *“for the LORD has an indictment against His people.”* He will let us know the truth about our troubles.

But first, God, in a loving way, asks the people in our text, why they are blaming Him for their troubles. *“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery.”*

Here God is asking His people to remember—remember how He saved them from troubles in the past—troubles that were too big for them to save themselves, like their slavery in Egypt. But there’s no trouble too big for God.

Then God reminds them of the people He worked through to save them. *“I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.”* These OT people represent all the people, both men and women, whom God gives us today to save us by letting us know of *“the saving acts of the LORD,”* people like your parents, teachers, and pastors like me.

So, basically, God is saying don’t worry, I am with you. Even though there will be troubles in this world, ultimately because of the sins of all people (including our own); and even though we cannot always get ourselves out of our troubles, God can. And He showed us this most clearly when He sent Jesus to set us free from our greatest troubles: our sins, death and the devil. When Jesus died on the cross, He allowed Himself to be punished for our sins, in our place. Then He rose from the dead to assure us that He is God and that, in the end, this is what’s going to happen to all those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. We will also rise from the dead to live with God in a world that will be like it was in the beginning, free from all troubles—Paradise.

Our OT reading ends with the people asking how they can repay God for His work of salvation. God let’s them know that there’s nothing He needs, but there are a lot of people that need to know what we know about God’s love and salvation through Jesus Christ. So He says, *“love kindness.”* Love being kind to others by letting them know what you know from John 3:16. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

Here’s a cross sticker to remind you of *“the saving acts of the LORD,”* and to remind you to tell others—to *“make disciples for life.”* In Jesus’ name.

All glory be to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.