

Wednesday 22nd April

Psalm 28 A Prayer for Help and Thanksgiving for It

Micah 7:1-7 The Total Corruption of the People

There are many phrases we have heard on a regular basis over recent months, “strange times” “Stay home, protect the NHS, save lives.”

In answer to the repeated questions from journalists “when will lockdown be relaxed?” there is the same reply “We cannot give up now and damage what we have already achieved.”

There are many times we may want to give up. When playing monopoly and all you have is a mortgage on Old Kent Road and no money in the bank you may feel like giving up – my advice at that point is “give up”, or never start the game in the first place.

On the BBC a few days ago there was a video made of images of hope and difficulty over the top of which was read by Idris Elba a version of “Don’t Quit” by John Greenleaf Whittier.

Micah, writing to his people in the latter part of the 8th Century BC – so about 700BC reflects on God’s people failing to live the God centred life; their failing to worship God in their daily living and care of neighbour, all seems destined for disaster but Micah declares;-

“But as for me, I will look to the Lord,
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.” Micah 7:7

The story of Micah is one of faithlessness and faithfulness, of despair and hope; God’s people will not be left crushed, they will return for God remains faithful and he is the God of promise who will not let us down.

In times of darkness and trouble, when families are falling apart, children can seem out of control, economies are being destroyed, people are struggling to pay its bills and the Church in many places seems to have lost its way, when all seems set for destruction, Micah points to things being even worse and still declares;-

“But as for me, I will look to the Lord,
I will wait for the God of my salvation;
my God will hear me.” Micah 7:7

I continue with my Lenten phrase –“Watch and Pray”, for at the end Micah declares
“You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot, and hurl all our iniquities into the sea. You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledge to our fathers in days long ago.” (Micah 7:20)

To Ponder:

- What makes you feel despondent at the moment?
- What might Micah say to you in that situation?