The Incurable Wound

**Read:** Micah 1:1-9

**Text:** Micah 1:9 “For her wound is incurable…”

**Introduction:** When you read the Bible can you think of a city which exceeded the mercy of God? Do Sodom and Gomorrah ring a bell? Can you recall some of the cities which the Israelites were commanded to utterly destroy? Does Amalek ring a bell? Exodus17:16 says “ For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn *that* the LORD *will have* war with Amalek from generation to generation.” It sounds like God is pretty mad at Amalek. Amalek’s sin was that they fought against Israel. I just want to say this morning that if you want to experience the wrath of God then just become like Sodom, Gomorrah, or Amalek.

**Problem #1** is mixing the holy with the unholy. In verse 5 Micah high-lights the issue of Samaria. Samaria is where the Israelites mar-ried into the gentile community. This is not about interracial marriage but rather about interfaith marriage. It is the unequal union of one who has God as their Father marrying one who has satan as their father.

It is also a picture of the church trying secular ways to accomplish spiritual things. We have bought into the idea of hiring experts in fundraising and methods of growing the church like a business. Let me hasten to say that it would be shortsighted to ignore good business procedures in the church world but we would be shortsighted not to recall that God can work through things and in ways that make no sense to our human mind.

**Problem #2** is idolatry. Both verses’ 5 & 7 refer to high places or places of idolatry. It would be evil if the idolatry was restricted to the lost but sadly it is all over the church community. In the church of today we are inundated with stars. Some preachers are even referred to as “rock stars.” We have changed many a pulpit into a stage. We have replaced the preaching of the Word into a dramatic production. Many platforms are filled with trained professionals from the stage décor-ators to the musicians, singers and the pastoral staff.

**Problem #3** is immorality. In verse 7 the word hires refers to the price of harlotry. In the community of the Godly immorality is normal. Sodom and Gomorrah were not God’s people and did not have a Godly heritage and yet God destroyed them in His rage over their sin. How do you think that compares to God’s people becoming involved in approving and/or becoming involved in what God has condemned?

God’s heart is broken. Verse 8 says “Therefore I will wail and howl, I

will go stripped and naked: I will make a wailing like the dragons, and

mourning as the owls.” Do you remember the hymn: “Every Promise

in the Book is Mine.” Well here are some promises found in this

chapter.

**Promise is** that God is coming and He brings judgment. Plainly we are told that God is against them. Their wound is incurable. When the doctor tells you that you cannot be cured that is not good news. When the next promise is one of total destruction then a sane person would be upset. When the words proceed from God to His own people then a Godly person would repent. That is exactly what happened. Jeremiah 26:18 tells us that: “Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed *like* a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest.” This scripture relates to the fact that when Hezekiah heard Micah’s prophecy he repented and led the nation back to God. He delayed the judgment of God for 135 years. It came after they rejected the prophecies of Jeremiah. After Jonah promised destruction to Nineveh in 40 days; they repented and delayed the judgment of God for 400 years.

**Conclude:** Does the church of Jesus Christ have an incurable wound in 2014? Have we moved too far from God’s standard? Is judgment inevitable? I am not sure of that. What I can say for sure is that repent-ance and prayer can turn the heart of God. Judgment can be delayed and many more lost friends and family can have a chance to be saved. I also am sure that if we do not humbly repent, if we do not turn from an unholy lifestyle. If idolatry remains in our lives and if immorality is tolerated in the church we will soon pass the point of no return. Can one person make a difference? Abraham did. Samuel did. David did. Jesus did. D.L Moody did. Mother Teresa did. You can be the person who turns the heart of God and reaches men and women for Christ.