

Who is Your God?
Week 3: A God who is Compassionate

Read Micah 7:18-20

1. Pastor Mike suggested that when it comes to discerning someone's character, past performance predicts future results. In other words, what we expect people to do in the present and future is based on how they acted in the past.

a. Where do we see this principle in this passage? Where does Micah refer to God's past faithfulness as assurance of God's action for the future?

b. Obviously, we have and trust in the testimony of Scripture, but it is also valuable to reflect on what we have seen of the Lord in our own lives as a testimony to His character. What has been your experience of God? Has He proven himself compassionate and faithful?

c. While we often don't understand God's ways—especially in the moment—over time we see His mercy and His faithfulness. If this is the case, why do we often still struggle to trust Him?

d. How have you seen the Lord grow you in this area?

2. In this passage, Micah's confidence in God's future deliverance is grounded in God's steadfast love for His people.

a. What is "steadfast love" and how is it different than the way people typically think of love in our culture today?

b. When in your life have you experienced this kind of love? How did it or has it affected you?

c. How does or should the knowledge that, if you are one of His people, God loves you this same way affect you?

d. Do you have an easy or difficult time really believing that God loves you this way?

3. We see in this text that God's steadfast love moves him beyond pity, sympathy, and even empathy to compassionate action.

a. What's the difference between pity, sympathy, empathy, and compassion?

b. When faced with the suffering of others which of these do you usually end up practicing?

c. Obviously, the world is huge and there are tons of needs and suffering. We can't address all of it on our own. How do we or should we decide what degree to respond to the suffering we see around us?

d. What is an area, situation or person that God is currently calling you to enter into and bring compassion love and mercy?

e. What would it look like to enter in and serve in this area?