## **How bad can it get before it gets better? Jan 28, 2024**

## ***Mic 7:1 Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, Like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires.***

## **The very first ripe fruits in the spring and summer were the best! You have been waiting since last year; all last year’s fruit has been eaten and you are waiting for some new juicy fruit!**

## **There are none!!!**

## **“All the leaves are brown, and the sky is gray”. Now God shows how bad it can get when we walk away from Him*.***



## ***7:2 The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net.***

## ***3 That they may successfully do evil with both hands– The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together.***



## **The leaders are corrupt, those responsible for justice are evil!**

## **In the book the “Peace Child”, this is how bad it can get: In trying to reach The Sawi tribe Don Richardson told them about Jesus:**

## ***“They listened intently to the story of Judas’s close relationship with Christ and his betrayal. They whistled with admiration. In their culture treachery and deception were virtues, the admirable stuff of legends. They valued not just cold murder,***

## ***but the “fattening with friendship” of an unsuspecting victim, then delighted in telling about the look of astonishment on his face when he realized they were about to kill and eat him.***

## ***They thought Judas was the hero of the story. “Finally Don felt that he should leave and settle somewhere else so that the Sawi would not end up destroying themselves.”* They wanted him to stay but they could not be trusted.**

## ***7:4 The best of them is like a brier; The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity. 5 Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom.***

## ***6 For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man’s enemies are the men of his own household.***



## ***Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!***

## **In America we pray for a revival!**

## **In my lifetime we have:**

## **Taken away the Bible in schools**

## **Taken prayer away from public forums**

## **This generation and their children have now grown up, what have we reaped?**

## **Killing children before their born and calling it a right.**



## **Divorce and family breakdown**



## **Perverting God’s holy covenants of marriage and saying that men with men and women with women is not only right, but an honor of pride!**



## **Trans-craziness, you can be whatever you want to be!**



## **Nightmare of whatever I say is truth.**

## ***Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.***

## **So back to the Sawi tribes… They needed to keep the missionary; they had a custom…**

## ***…“The next day, the Sawi groups solemnly gathered. Don witnessed, to his amazement, a man from each of the warring groups bring one of his own children, with the mothers weeping, and exchange the children.***

## ***Those in one group who would accept the child as a basis for peace were called to come and lay hands upon him, and the process was repeated in the other group. Then each child was taken to his new adoptive home.***

## ***In a culture of violence and treachery, “at some point the Sawi had found a way to prove sincerity and establish peace…If a man would actually give his own son to his enemies, that man could be trusted.”***

## ***Don was horrified that his call for peace had caused this to happen, but soon began to see the parallels between the Sawi “peace child” and God’s sacrifice of His own Son.***

## ***He began to tell them that Jesus was God’s own Peace Child to all men. Judas lost his status as hero because harming a peace child was one of the worst things someone could do.***

## ***They began to see the inadequacy of their “best,” because peace in their culture only held as long as the peace child lived.***

## ***When he died, old animosities could revive. But because Jesus rose again and was eternal, the peace He gave could never die. It took many months for understanding and conviction to sink in, and even then they were afraid of angering the demons by departing from tradition.***



## ***But when God enabled Don and Carol to revive a Sawi tribesman who was near death, the Sawi took this “as proof that the tuan’s God was powerful” and many began to believe!”***

## ***Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,***

## **Is there hope for our culture?**

## **NO! If it continues down this path of destruction.**



## **YES! If and only if we take to heart this message:**



## ***Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, Pardoning iniquity And passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage?***

## ***He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.***

## ***19 He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea. 20 You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our fathers From days of old.***

## ***Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.***

## ***19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”***



## ***Amen.***

