

# Don't Go Fishing

**Text: Micah 7:18-19 NIV**

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.

<sup>19</sup> You will again have compassion on us, you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

Too often we hold our past failures and mistakes against ourselves which interferes with our ability to move forward in life with confidence. When we hold our past sins against our self and do not walk in forgiveness in regard to things we know God has forgiven us for, we interfere with our ability to move forward in our spiritual walk with confidence.

No reasonable person would try to retrieve something worthless that has been thrown into the depth of the ocean, yet people constantly fish for past sins that have been cast away into the depths of God's forgiveness. There is no value and trying to retrieve what God has discarded.

Note the *mistakes* we make when we "go fishing" in remembering and rehearsing our past sins.

## **I. We Make the Mistake of Failing to Celebrate the Victory God Has Made Over Our Sin (v.18).**

- A. God's forgiveness is a unique work of grace.
- B. God's forgiveness is a special source of rejoicing.
- C. God's forgiveness is a powerful work of divine grace.

## **II. We Mark the Mistake of Frustrating the Grace of God in His Work to Forgive Us and Redeem Us (v.18).**

- A. The purpose of God's forgiveness is to "have a remnant," by redeeming all who will come to Him.
- B. The purpose of God's forgiveness is to share in the inheritance he offers.
- C. The purpose of God's forgiveness is to set us free and show us mercy.

### III. We Discount the Compassion God Has Shown Us (v.19).

- A. God's compassion (Empathy, concern, care) is endless for those who trust in him and call upon His name.
- B. God's compassion (Empathy, concern, care) for us is the reason for his triumph over our sins.
- C. God's compassion (Empathy, concern, care) is why he has cast our sins far from us into the depths of the sea.

### Conclusion

Don't make the same *mistakes* many have made for centuries in allowing themselves to dredge up past failures, past sins, past transgressions. Once you have repented and ask God to forgive you it's time to leave those behind and walk forward in forgiveness.