

The Adopted Life

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany ~ 01.30.2011

Intervention

As a recovering addict, I know well what it is like to be confronted by people who love me. In this week's Old Testament reading, Israel has hit rock-bottom in her addiction to evil, and the Triune God and Micah stage an intervention. Yahweh is no codependent enabler, because God is love after all—tough love. With the mountains themselves as witnesses (Micah 6.1-2), He recounts his kind and patient behavior toward Israel (6.4-5). He articulates his desire for her recovery and healing (6.8). He voices His feelings of frustration (6.3) at how she seems to think that her extravagant apologies make it okay for her to continue in her addictive pattern (6.6-7).

Yahweh is speaking the truth here because the truth is the only thing that can set Israel free. The supreme blessing of rock-bottom is the clarity of vision—the epiphany—it can bring. If Israel can see her situation clearly, she may come to recognize how unmanageable her life has become and how powerless she is to change it. And if she can see that, she may finally be able to accept the help of the One who knows the path of her healing.

~ John Stonecypher