

## **Majoring in the Minors – Week 7**

**August 3, 2025**

**Nahum**

**Matt Vaught**

### **Nahum: The Prophet Who Makes You Say “Hmm”**

#### **I. A Forgotten Prophet with a Familiar Message**

A. Set the stage:

1. 150 years after Jonah.
2. Nineveh has returned to its oppressive and wicked ways.
3. God’s patience has run out — judgment is coming.

B. Nahum delivers a message of justice to Nineveh and comfort to Judah.

#### **II. Clouds, Feet, and Hope**

- Nahum 1:3

“The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.”

A. Big Idea 1: God is Present in the Clouds

1. Life with Jesus often starts bright and full of joy — but there will come clouds
2. What if Clouds aren't a sign of God’s absence — but evidence of His presence?
  - “The clouds are the dust of His feet.”
  - Revelation 1:7 — He comes with the clouds.

B. Without clouds, there’s no rain.

1. No growth.
2. No deepening of faith.
3. No refining of character.

- “God uses clouds not just to teach, but to un-teach—to simplify our faith to childlike trust” - Oswald Chambers

#### **III. A Fortress in the Storm**

- Nahum 1:7

“The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.”

A. Big Idea 2: The Lord is Good

1. Hebrew word: “Tov” — more than just “nice” or “not bad.”
  - Rich, beautiful, bountiful, full of blessing.

B. He is a refuge — a stronghold.

1. A rock, a fortress, a safe place in the storm.

- C. Faith in the storm reveals His character:
  - 1. We learn His goodness as we are unlearning the habits of self-reliance.
  - 2. We experience Him as both refuge and redeemer.
- Jesus is not just our protector — He's also the one who steps out and fights for us.

#### **IV. Shackles Broken, Victory Won**

- Nahum 1:13

"Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."

##### A. Big Idea 3: Jesus Has Broken the Yoke

- 1. Luke 4:18-19 — Jesus declares Himself the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.
  - Good news.
  - Freedom for captives.
  - Release for the oppressed.

##### B. Ephesians 6:12 — Our real battle is spiritual.

##### C. Jesus breaks the chains of sin and death.

- 1. Not just protection, but liberation.
- 2. Not just safety, but victory.

#### **V. Fix Your Eyes and Celebrate**

- Text: Nahum 1:15

"Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows..."

##### A. Big Idea 4: We See and Celebrate

- 1. "Look" — Behold, fix your eyes on the one who brings the good news — Jesus.
  - What we fix our eyes on, we become.
  - Are you beholding Him?

##### B. "Celebrate" — Worship, remembrance, gratitude.

- 1. Worship is a declaration of trust and remembrance of God's faithfulness.

##### C. Luke 7:36-50 — A sinful woman worships Jesus with tears and perfume.

- 1. The one forgiven much loves much.
- 2. Our celebration flows from knowing we've been rescued.

#### **VI. From Storm to Song**

- A. Nahum isn't just a message of judgment — it's a message of hope for the hurting, freedom for the captive, and peace for the soul.
- B. Jesus is:
  - 1. The one in the clouds
  - 2. The refuge in the storm
  - 3. The breaker of chains

#### 4. The bringer of peace

##### **Questions for Further Reflection:**

1. Where have the clouds rolled in recently in your life — and how might they be evidence of God's presence, not His absence?

-Reflect on how difficulty may be drawing you deeper into dependence and relationship with Jesus.

2. What do you tend to run to for refuge when life gets hard — and how can you intentionally run to the Lord instead?

-Consider how you can make God your first, not last, place of peace and safety.

3. Are there any "shackles" you're still carrying that Jesus has already broken?

What would it look like to live as someone who is truly free?

4. What are you currently beholding — and is it shaping you more into the image of Jesus or something else?

-*"We become what we behold."* What practical step can you take this week to fix your eyes on Him?