

Title: **A Psalm of Great Reversals**
Text: **Psalm 22**
Date: **September 3, 2023**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.

Introduction: A Unique Reversal & Then Fulfillment

Ps. 22:1 // Mark 15:34 - *"At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"*

- Forsaken is a term most often used to describe Israel's abandonment of God.
- And there is now a unique reversal—the faithful God has forsaken the only truly faithful One.
- Psalm 22: 31 - He has done it → John 19:30 - "It is finished!" ~ first-person version of Ps. 22:31.

Part I: The Laments - A Great Reversal (vv. 1-21)

- 1-2 See John 5:19: *"So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise'"* (cf. also John 14:8-11).
- 3 Hold on to who you know God to be - an Anchor
- 4-5 God's faithfulness to others
- 6-8 Hecklers
- 9-11 God's faithfulness to the psalmist (loneliness)
- 12-13 Threats from the Movers and Shakers
- 14-15 The physical toll
You lay me in the dust of death - who is the "you"?
- 16-18 Graphic descriptions of the cross

Some translations (New Jerusalem Bible) use "bind" instead of pierced - might be a better fit for David

What held Jesus to the cross? (cf. John 3:16; Rom. 5:8)

19-21 The psalmist does the only thing he can do . . . he prays again

Part II: Praise Ignited - A Reversal from Lament to Praise (vv. 21-29)

- 21 God answers
- 22-29 The triumphal celebration (OT practice → Heavenly Reality)
- 22-29 See Heb. 2:11-12; 5:7
Maybe the NT book of Hebrews is the expansion pack for Ps. 22:22-29
- 24 For he (God the Father) has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted (Jesus), and he (God the Father) has not hidden his (God the Father) face from him (Jesus), but has heard when he (Jesus) cried to him (God the Father).

Part III: Congregational Response - A Reversal of the Congregation (vv. 30-31)

Who is the "they"? Who is the "his" or "he"?

What shall they proclaim?

- That he has done it—he has risen, he has risen indeed (Matt. 28:6)
- That he died the death we deserved so that we could live (1 Thess. 5:10)

What then should we do?

- As an observer?
- As someone who is feeling forsaken or as someone who is suffering?
- As someone who has seen God's faithfulness?

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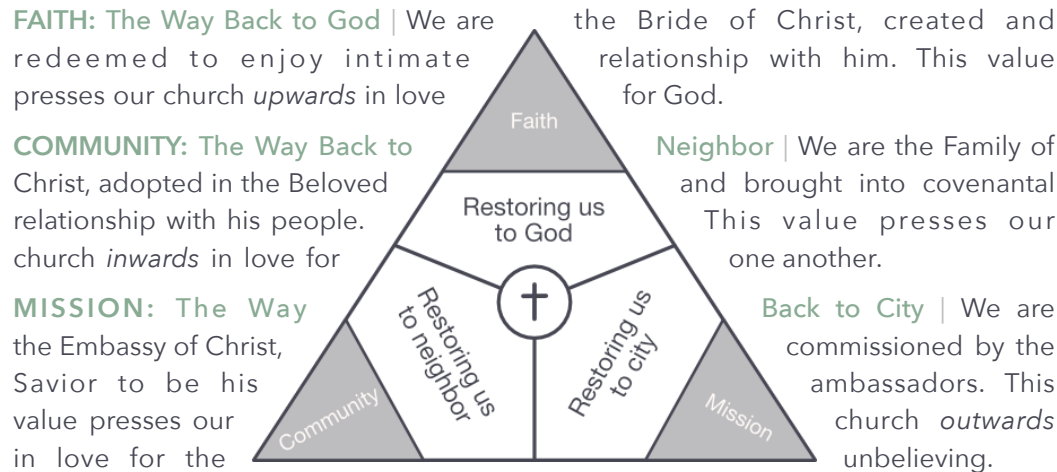


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Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



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When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Today!!!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on occasional Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Mercy Hill Men's BBQ & Hangout - September 16th

Men of Mercy Hill, we've got something coming up for you! On Saturday, September 16th from 10:00am to 2:00pm, we're planning to host a men's BBQ and hike at Uvas Canyon County Park (Black Oak Group Site). We'll be doing some hiking, eating (bbq!), sharing, and friendly competition (horseshoes & cornhole)! This is a great opportunity to get to meet, connect, laugh, and hang out with some of the men of Mercy Hill Church!

Please scan the QR code below and RSVP by Wednesday (9/13) so we can make sure there's enough food AND parking passes.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Paul Walton at pwwalton@comcast.net.

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