

Title: **In the Last Days . . .**
Text: **Acts 2:14-21**
Date: **June 18, 2023**

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



Big Idea

Peter quotes from a prophecy in Joel to help make sense of what's happening on the day of Pentecost. He sees the work of Jesus as inaugurating the "last days" and shows us how we should then live in light of them.

1. What Is Happening?

Part #1: "I Will Pour Out My Spirit"

The word translated "pour out" here is utilized to highlight the *generosity*, the *abundance*, the *liberality* of all this. God is not holding back. He's not metering it out. There's no governor on the flow. He's not lightly sprinkling it from above. It's not a trickle or even a steady stream. He's pouring the Spirit out upon us. It's a monsoon of grace that's now dumping overhead. The clouds had been growing off on the horizon through the OT, the winds of God's plan and promise slowly brought them towards us, and now on the day of Pentecost—in view of what Jesus accomplished with his life, death, resurrection, and ascension—they've cracked open and sheets of mercy are streaming forth!

Part #2: "On All Flesh"

If the pouring out was meant to highlight God's generosity and liberality, here now we are meant to see something of the *ubiquity* or *universality* of it all. His Spirit isn't just poured out on a few lucky folks who make the cut. It's poured out on all flesh. Everyone everywhere. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

Part #3: Prophecy, Visions, Dreams?!

Aspect #1: The Evidential Aspect - Here is tangible evidence of an intangible reality, a manifestation in the physical world of something that's occurring fundamentally in the spiritual domain (cf. Num. 11:25).

Aspect #2: The Revelational Aspect - The Spirit helps us get the gospel. He opens up our eyes to who Jesus is and what he's truly accomplished (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9-16).

Aspect #3: The Relational Aspect - Now through Jesus, anyone—man woman, young old, lower class upper class—anyone can know God in a deep and personal way (cf. Jer. 31:31-34).

2. When Is It Happening?

Jesus' accomplishment at Calvary which has now culminated in the outpouring of the Spirit has initiated the end times. We are living in the last days (cf. Deut. 4:30-31; Isa. 2:2-4; Jer. 23:20; Dan. 2:27-28; 10:14; Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:1-7; 1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:20; 1 John 2:18). The last days are here. And they are steadily marching towards the last day, what Joel calls "the day of the Lord . . . , the great and magnificent day" (Acts 2:20)—when Christ will at last return to judge the living and the dead and to save to the uttermost those who have settled their faith upon him.

3. How Should We Respond?

Suggestion #1: Genuinely Inquire - "What does this mean?" (Acts 2:12).

Suggestion #2: Call on His Name - "And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21).

Suggestion #3: Live Like the Church in Acts 2:42-47 - "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. . . . And all who believed were together and had all things in common. . . . And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."



Reflection Questions

- Which of the three parts listed under the first question above seemed most significant to you and why?
- What do you think it means that we are living in the "last days"? Look at the lifestyle of the Christians in Acts 2:42-47. Does your life look anything like this? Where are you doing similar? Where do you especially need to grow?

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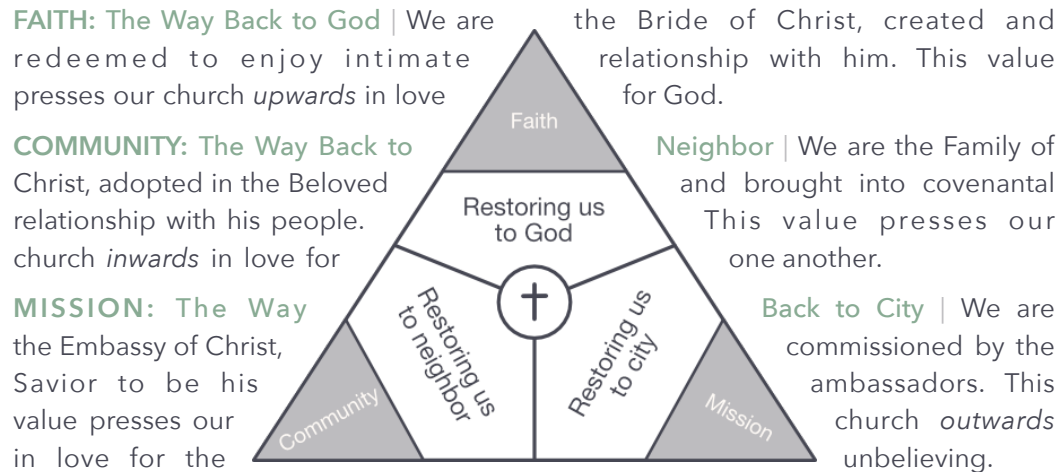


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Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.



Your Next Steps

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 Campout - Next Week!

If you've been putting it off, now's the time. Register for Mercy Hill's All Church Campout today! Remember, our Sunday Service on 6/25 will be at the campsite (NOT AT ALLEN AT STEINBECK!) with a BBQ lunch (free!) to follow. Even if you're only planning to join us for that, we need you to register below so we can adequately prepare!

We'll be hosting an All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of June 23rd-25th! We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. Because the park is only a 45 minute drive from south San Jose, people can feel free to come and go as it works with their schedule and preference.

Option #1: Day-Use: For those not wanting to camp but still wanting to participate, the Day-Use option is best. You can come in for the day, enjoy activities, meals, etc., and then head home to your warm bed while the rest of us "rough" it :).

Option #2: Camp: This option is for those who want the full camping experience. We have the site for Friday and Saturday nights. You can choose to camp for one or both of these depending upon your availability and desire.

Scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to sign up.

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

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