

Title: **The Miracle and the Message (Part 1)**
Text: **Acts 3:1-10**
Date: **September 10, 2023**

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



Big Idea

We may feel like this man in the dirt. Broken, hopeless, ostracized, and alone. But Jesus is both the “Christ” and “of Nazareth.” He is both high and exalted and with us in the dirt. He alone, therefore, is able to meet us in our suffering and carry us out!

The miracle and the message, the good deed and the good news, the showing and the sharing have always gone together. It was this way all throughout Jesus’ ministry (cf. Matt. 4:23). And it’s no different now for these apostles of his . . . or for you and I.

1. The Man in the Dirt

Layer #1: “Lame”

On top of the everyday struggle just to get by physically, there was likely this emotional and spiritual turmoil—an internal cocktail of guilt and doubt and despair. “God’s against me. He must be.”

Layer #2: “From Birth”

Certainly this little detail accents the sheer wonder and impossibility of the miracle that’s about to take place. But it also accents the hopelessness of it all for him at this point. It’s been over forty years.

God has no problem letting himself in through the backdoor. He loves to throw his kids surprise parties. He gives us never less than what we expect, but always more. We come to him, wanting him to make our lives a little better, a little more comfortable—just throw a few coins our way. But he wants to sweep us up into his love and fill us with joy unshakeable. He wants to change everything!

Layer #3: “Carried”

This is a grown man being carried like a baby in front of all these people. Imagine the embarrassment, the shame. You’d feel so helpless, like such a burden.

Layer #4: “Laid Daily at the Gate”

This man is on the outside, laying in the dirt.

2. The Man on a Mission

Lesson #1: The Missionary’s Availability

Is this how you walk around your neighborhood, your workplace, the grocery store—like Jesus may have someone for you to love on here? You may have a lot of other things going on, you may be hanging with your Christian buddies, you may have an agenda—things you need to do, places you’ve got to get to—but are you willing to set all that aside if God is moving otherwise? Are you available?

Lesson #2: The Missionary’s Resources

It may sound crazy, but do you want to know what God’s plan is for reaching your neighbors and coworkers and family and friends for Jesus? It’s *you*. You’re the plan. And it’s not because you’re awesome. It’s because he is . . . and you know him.

3. The Man from Nazareth

Disambiguator #1: “Christ”

As one commentator puts it: this is “the name which belongs to Jesus by virtue of his resurrection and glorification” (cf. Acts 2:36).

Disambiguator #2: “Of Nazareth”

This now speaks to his humanity, his weakness, his humility, his willingness to get in the dirt with us.

This lame man leaping like a deer in the house of God is a trumpet blast, an announcement, as it were, that the end-time restoration has begun in Jesus. It’s a picture and a prophetic sign pointing us towards the new creation that’s coming in full upon his return.



Reflection Questions

- The first closing exhortation was “Come to Him.” In what ways do you need to do this even now? How do you relate to this man in the dirt? How can Jesus help?
- The second closing exhortation was “Go to Them.” Who are the people in your life that need you to bring the love of Jesus to them? How can you move towards them this week?

W
E
L
C
O
M
E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A



CONNECTION CARD

Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

Our Mission & Values

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

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

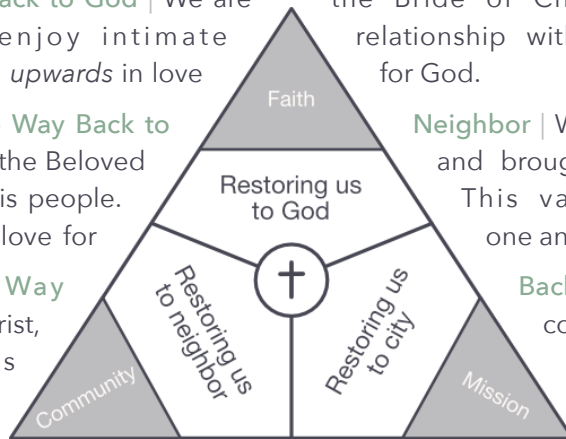
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



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!



Mail: PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153
Phone: (408) 320-7080
Email: info@mercyhillchurch.org
Web: mercyhillchurch.org



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

Announcement Spotlight

Mercy Hill Men's BBQ & Hangout - THIS SATURDAY!

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.

Mercy Hill Youth Hangout - Today!

All Mercy Hill Youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited for a hangout after service today at 12:30pm! We'll have time for fellowship, prayer, and getting in God's Word. And we even plan to provide some pizza! Our plan, weather permitting, is to meet at the picnic tables in the pavilion around the back of Allen at Steinbeck Elementary. See ya there!

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

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.