

Title: **"We Cannot Deny It" - Unbelief As the Dogged Dismissal of Indisputable Fact**
Text: **Acts 4:1-22**

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



Big Idea

When we're living against the grain of the universe and out of alignment with God's world, we will inevitably keep butting up against evidence and experiences that don't fit within our paradigm or worldview. We'll continue to be confronted by "inconvenient truths." When such a confrontation occurs, it is ours to decide: will we let God lead us back to reality and truth, or will we double down on our lies?

1. Inconvenient Truths

Inconvenient Truth #1: The Resurrection of Jesus

This is a problem for these religious leaders. These were the same guys that just a few weeks earlier had called for Jesus' crucifixion. They wanted him off the scene. He was creating all sorts of problems for them. And yet now here you have this significant number of people claiming to have seen Jesus risen from the dead. So they were "greatly annoyed"—agitated, disturbed. It's an inconvenient truth.

Inconvenient Truth #2: The Transformation of the Disciples

We lie so long as we think we can still get something from it. But, once we see the jig is up, we don't keep lying to our own hurt. We figure out a way to wiggle out of it. Therefore, the claim that these apostles must have taken Jesus' body, and are here now boldly lying about Jesus' resurrection, even at threat of death, holds no water. It makes no sense. And as such, it's another inconvenient truth for these religious leaders. And they see it. That's why they're "astonished" by it. It's not lost on them that something's going on here—that Jesus has transformed these disciples.

Inconvenient Truth #3: The Healing of a Crippled Man

This miraculous healing is a "sign." In other words, it's pointing to something beyond itself. Like a sign on the side of the freeway, it's directing you somewhere, leading to something even more signifi-

cant. Well, in this case, what is it? It's pointing to the fact that Jesus really is alive and he really can save (v.12).

They "had nothing to say in opposition" (v. 14). They "cannot deny it" (v. 16). They know the truth. They just don't care. A lot of times, when people don't come to faith in Jesus, it's not because they don't know it's true, it's because they don't want it to be true. It's not so much a matter of the head as much as it is a matter of the heart. So we lock up Galileo and we ban his books. We don't want to go there. These are inconvenient truths.

2. Copernican Revolutions

Let's be clear: these religious leaders, they didn't succeed in their resistance of Jesus here. The church kept rolling forward no matter what they did. And they couldn't keep their prominence and prestige and power no how matter how hard they tried. Give it a few years and the Romans would come in and destroy the temple and take away their place anyway (cf. John 11:48). You don't gain anything by locking up Galileo and banning his books. You just make yourself miserable trying to hold on . . . and you still lose it all in the end.

Maybe it's time for a Copernican Revolution in your life this morning. Maybe you've been living against the grain of the universe, out of accord with reality, like you're the center. And it's not working. Maybe it's time open yourself up to Jesus—perhaps for the first time, perhaps just in a fuller way. When you try to put the earth at the center, everything spirals out. But when you put the sun there, everything comes back into orbit. Everything works. Everything makes sense. Because it's got weight, it's got glory, it's got gravitational pull. That's what Jesus does. So let him in!



Reflection Questions

- On the whole, would you say that you've been living with God or yourself at the center of your Solar System lately? Why do you think? What (if anything) needs to change?
- Is there anything that you feel Jesus has been trying to reveal to you but you've been pushing it away—not because it seems untrue, but because it seems inconvenient? Why are you resisting? How does this story in Acts 4 challenge you to do otherwise?

W

E

L

C

O

N

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

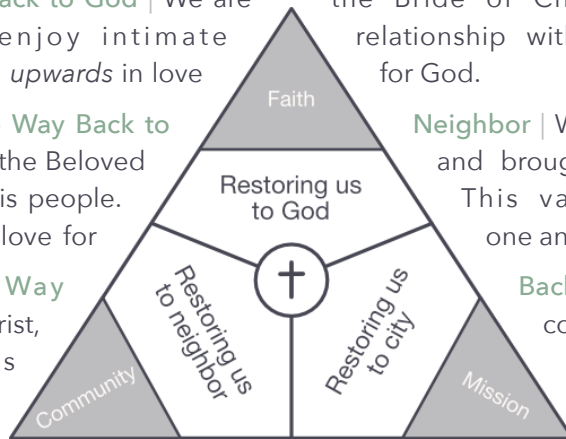
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

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 Pumpkin Carving Party!

Come join us for a fun afternoon of pumpkin carving/decorating (and candy too!) on Saturday (10/28) from 3:00-5:00pm at Allen at Steinbeck Elementary School (courtyard/picnic tables area). Please RSVP by Sunday (10/22) to guarantee a FREE pumpkin for your child(ren). This event is for our Mercy Hill Church community, friends and family, as well as for our local community. This is a great opportunity to invite family, classmates, neighbors, and friends! If you would like to help out, please contact Joey.

Please scan the QR code below to find a link to RSVP.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Joey Wang at joey@mercyhillchurch.org.

Want to Get Baptized?!

Baptism is "going public" with your faith in Jesus. It's a declaration to the world that you are not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16)—even to you! It's being immersed into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19). It's being brought into the very fellowship of the Trinity and family of God. It's a sign and seal of your participation in Christ. It's going down with him in his death and rising up with him in his resurrection life (Rom. 6:3-4). It's passing through the judgment waters of God by way of Jesus our Ark (1 Pet. 3:20-21). It's a picture of your new creation in him (2 Cor. 5:17). It's a big decision. And one certainly worth considering.

A few at Mercy Hill have recently expressed interest in being baptized. If you (and/or your children) are interested as well, please let us know!

Please scan the QR code below to find a link to sign up.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@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.