

Title: **If a Sermon Could Kill**  
Text: **Acts 20:7-16**  
Date: **November 30, 2025**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

On the surface, this story is a bit funny, but truly it frames some very deep theological truths. It all centers on the resurrection of Christ. In these verses we see: (1) A Resurrection Pattern, (2) A Resurrection People; and (3) A Resurrection Power.

### 1. A Resurrection Pattern

Have you ever wondered: Why are we here? Not here on this earth. But here in this room, in a church gathering, on a Sunday. Why are we doing this? In particular, why are we doing this *when* we're doing this? Why does the church gather on the first day of the week? Well, to put it simply: because that's the day of the week upon which Jesus was raised (cf. Luke 24:1)!

We have built into our calendars, then, a weekly reminder of the gospel. No longer do we work for rest (day 7). Now we work from it (day 1). Rest doesn't sit at the end of our week like something we labor towards. Now, it's here at the beginning of our week because Christ has already labored for us. Sunday is the day we set aside to get off the treadmill of life in Silicon Valley and let our hearts settle into that resurrection reality once more. That's what you need this week more than anything else—to get the gospel down deep into your guts. As I often say at the end of our services: "He is risen . . . so we can rest!"

### 2. A Resurrection People

If you're going to become a resurrected person, you first have to reckon with the fact that you're a dead person (cf. Col. 2:13; Luke 15:24; Rev. 3:1). Oh sure, we walk around, we look like we have life, but, spiritually, we are no better than zombies, we are the walking dead. We need to be born again from above or we will remain apathetic even hostile towards the things of God—his beauty, his glory, his truth. It will have no impact on us. It all seems as foolishness to us

until we are awakened from our spiritual slumber, born again, resurrected.

But how does this happen? We know, in a fundamental sense, our spiritual resurrection is made possible by Jesus' resurrection. But how does *his* come to effect *mine*? The means of new creation is not all that different from the means of the first creation. The Spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep. God spoke, and the Spirit enacted (cf. Gen. 1:1-3). That's what happens over you and I when the gospel is preached (cf. Ezek. 37:1-14)! That's how we become a resurrection people. And that's why, when we gather on the first day of the week, we preach!

### 3. A Resurrection Power

Paul here shows what a resurrected life really looks like. And it's not what you'd think. It's ironic. It's upside-down. I would put it like this: The evidence of a resurrected life is a crucified one. You know a person is truly alive in Jesus when they're willing to die in love for others (cf. 2 Cor. 4:7-12).

It doesn't require the miracle of the resurrection to get you to fight for your life, and your way, and your desires. Everyone's doing that. You want to see something crazy? Look at someone laying their life down in love for another. You see that and you know there's resurrection power in the mix. Because no one's doing that on their own. They've been touched, they've been born again, they've been spiritually resurrected by Jesus, the resurrected One!



### Reflection Questions

- Have you ever wondered why churches hold services on Sundays, the first day of the week? How does the resurrection "pattern" of our weekly gatherings encourage you personally? Why do you need to settle your soul down deep into the gospel before the start of this upcoming week? If you did, how might it change the week ahead?
- What might this "resurrection crucifixion" look for you? Where is Jesus calling you to die in love for him and others?

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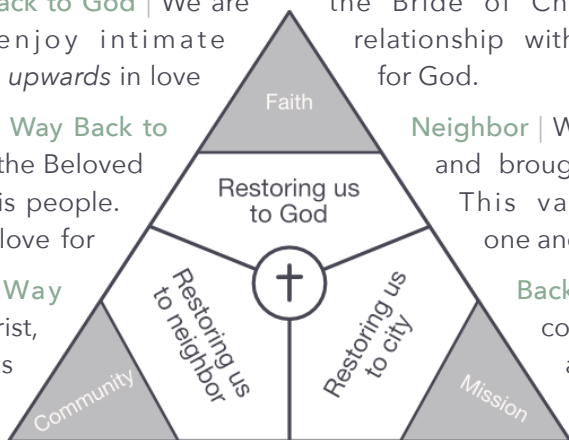
## Our Mission & Values

*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 the Bride of Christ, created and redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for and brought into covenantal relationship with him. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for

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



## 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 Appreciation Lunch - NEXT WEEK!

Mercy Hill has so many wonderful people who keep all the various dimensions of our ministry thriving and fruitful. And we want to appreciate them! So immediately following the service on Sunday, December 7th, we are planning to have a special all church lunch (think Pizza My Heart pizza party, with salad, dessert, etc.) as a way of saying thanks. The whole church is invited to stay after and participate as we look to particularly appreciate those who have served in various capacities throughout this last year. We hope you can join us!

If you're planning to come, please help us prepare by RSVP'ing (scan the QR code below to find the link).

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

Ladies Christmas Tea - 12/13/25

CityTeam Volunteer Opportunity - 12/20/25

Scan the QR code below for more info and clickable content!

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