

Title: **The 20/20 Vision**
Text: **Acts 20:20**
Date: **December 7, 2025**

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Big Idea

In Acts 20:20, we see that the church was meeting in "public" spaces and "from house to house"—in larger gatherings and smaller groups. Such a dynamic is critical to the health of the church and the individual. If we are to see and show Christ rightly (i.e. with "20/20" vision), we need both!

Faith, Community, and Mission—in larger gatherings and smaller groups (cf. Acts 2:42-47). Three core values pursued in two different contexts. That's the recipe for 20/20 vision.

1. Pursuing Faith

In Larger Gatherings

"There are today some criticisms of such expository preaching. Some suggest that today we need a less rational, more artistic, less authoritarian and elitist, more communal and participatory way of communicating God's truth than this ancient method of one person standing up front and talking in a monologue to others. We need video clips, they say, and dialogues and liturgical dance. And yet there's something right and good about this ancient method that makes it appropriate, perhaps even especially appropriate, for our culture today. In our isolatingly subjectivist culture where everyone's just into their own thing, in this anti-authority culture where everyone is confused and confusing, there is something appropriate about us all gathering together and listening to one who is standing in the place of God, giving His Word to us as we contribute nothing to it other than hearing and heeding it. There is an important symbol in this process in and of itself" (Mark Dever, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, 53-54).

In Smaller Groups

Jesus is our King, our authority. And we come under him, we submit to him. We let him have the first word. But he's also our Friend, and

our Brother, and our Shepherd, and our Bridegroom. And, as such, he doesn't just tell us to sit quiet and listen, he invites us to speak as well. Jesus doesn't merely preach among the crowds, he also meets people in their homes around the dinner table.

2. Pursuing Community

In Larger Gatherings

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Cor. 12:27).

In Smaller Groups

Somewhere around fifty times in the New Testament we're told, as followers of Jesus, as a community in Christ, to feel something for "one another", to do something for "one another", to treat "one another" like Christ has treated us. And here's the thing: You just can't do these "one-anothers" very well in a crowd. It requires intimate and personal relationship—smaller settings.

3. Pursuing Mission

When Jesus was on the earth, he did the large outreach thing—like the time when he fed the 5000 with a few loaves and fish. And he gets all of his guys involved in it. But he also sends them out two by two. They did the large thing and the small thing. You need both.



Reflection Questions

- Consider your relationship with the church as it stands now. Do you participate regularly in the Sunday Services or is your attendance hit-or-miss? Are you a meaningful part of a small group or have you been keeping a "safe distance" from other Christians? Why?
- Why might engaging the church at both a large gathering and small group level be especially important for you personally? What does a large gathering offer that a small group can't? What does a small group offer that a large gathering can't? Why do you need both? What needs to change for you to more intentionally pursue this 20/20 Vision along with us?

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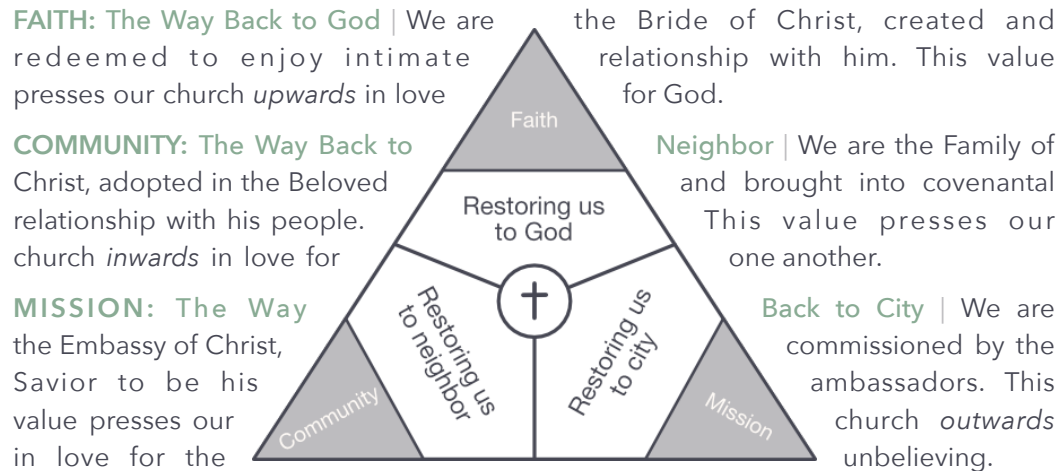


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Our Mission & Values

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



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 - TODAY!

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 today, 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.

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Ladies Christmas Tea - 12/13/25

Holiday Gift Baskets for Allen School Families

CityTeam Volunteer Opportunity - 12/20/25

Christmas @ Mercy Hill - 12/21/25

End-of-Year Giving

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

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