

Title: **The Message, the Method, and the Madness (Part 2)**
Text: **Acts 22:1-22**
Date: **May 10, 2026**

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



Big Idea

When it comes to sharing the gospel meaningfully with other people, our goal is not merely to *get the message right*, it's also to *get the message across*—to share the message in such a way that it has a better chance of being heard and understood appropriately. For this, telling our own story of salvation (as Paul does in Acts 22) can be profoundly helpful.

2. The Method

Observation #1: *That He Tells His Story*

Paul isn't just preaching the gospel at them here. He's couching gospel truth in personal testimony. He tells them how he was converted, how Jesus got ahold of him, how the gospel and God's grace came to transform his own life. He's not just making statements about the Bible. He's telling a story, his story.

Reason #1: It's Personally Accessible

Reason #2: It's Culturally Relevant

Reason #3: It's Rhetorically Disarming

Observation #2: *How He Tells His Story*

Paul doesn't just tell his story. He tells it in a way that's relevant to his Jewish audience here, in a way that's intelligible to them, in a way they can understand and see the implications of it for themselves.

Way #1: He Accents Points of Contact

Way #2: He Addresses Points of Concern

How Can We Do the Same?

Sharing your testimony with others, it seems to me, really involves the intersection of three stories—THE story, your story, and their story.

Story #1: THE Story

Story #2: Your Story

Story #3: Their Story

3. The Madness

Sharing the gospel with people in a way that they can best hear it is not the same thing as telling people what they want to hear. The cross is still an offense to natural man. No one wants to hear that by nature they're a sinner en route to hell and they can only be saved, not by works, but by grace from outside in Jesus. That still chafes on people. And it's going to. We try to remove every possible offense save the offense of the cross. You can't change that. No method can change that. You can only try to be faithful to bring the message of grace, in a manner that is full of grace, and then you leave the results up to sovereign grace. Salvation belongs to the Lord. You love, you share, and you let him do the rest.



Reflection Questions

- Which of the three stories listed above needs your attention most do you think? In other words, which do you most need to grow in? What steps can you take to do just that?
- Take some time this week and prayerfully work through the My Story for His Glory Worksheet. Share what you're learning with others. Try to tell your story!

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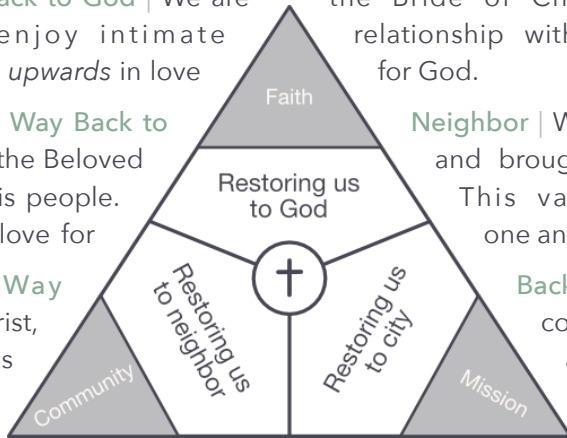
Our Mission & Values

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

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the Back to City | We are commissioned by the 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!



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

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Campout - Open Registration!

We are excited to announce that we will again be hosting our All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of June 26-28! 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.

Support the Nicaragua Team!

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

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