

Title: **The Pattern and the Point: Cruciformity in the Life (and Death) of a Christian (Part 1)**
Text: **Acts 25:1-27**

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



Big Idea

In the closing chapters of Acts, Luke goes out of his way to show how the story of Paul follows after the pattern of Jesus. The point is clear: those who look to Christ will look like him—but, even more specifically, they will look like the cross!

1. The Pattern

When you look closely, the whole structure of the closing chapters of Acts maps right onto the structure of the closing chapters of Jesus' life as Luke records it for us in his Gospel.

Layer #1: The Jerusalem Journey

Layer #2: The Fearless Resolve

Layer #3: The Unsavory Arrest

Layer #4: The Myriad Trials

Layer #5: The False Charges

Layer #6: The Unavoidable Verdict

Layer #7: The Relentless Rejection

Layer #8: The Ultimate Triumph

2. The Point

Those who look to Jesus will look like Jesus. The pattern of Christ will mark the people of Christ. His story will become our story. Where he has gone his followers will go. Do you want to know what the resurrection life of Jesus looks like at work in a person? It looks like death. You know he's alive in me when I'm willing to die for you—when my life, in other words, looks like the cross (cf. Phil. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 4:7-11; Gal. 6:17; 1 Cor. 15:31).

If you are a Christian in this place (and I say this with fear and trembling, knowing that I fall far short so much of the time) people should be able to trace in yours and my life the very pattern of our Savior and his cross.

I don't know what cruciformity might look like for you in the details of your life right now. Maybe it's something big. Maybe it's something small. But I'd invite you to consider it, even this afternoon, as you go about your day, facing various decisions and things. Instead of asking: what do I want, what do I need, what can I get, and so forth—as we are prone to do; ask this: *what would the cross look like here in this situation?* I'm not saying we'll always know the answer for sure. But that's always the right question. Because that's why we're here: to know Jesus; to show Jesus; to be conformed to his image; to reflect him and the wonder of his cross to the world around!



Reflection Questions

- Have you ever noticed the connections between Paul and Jesus in the book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke before? Are there other parallels Nick didn't mention in the sermon? What do you make of all this? What do you think Luke is trying to teach us?
- Let your mind settle on one thing you are currently facing in your life—it could be hard, it could be good. Instead of asking: what do I want from this, what do I need in this, what can I get from this, etc. ask: *what would the cross look like in this?* How would you answer that question? Lean on Jesus for help to live (and die) it out!

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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.

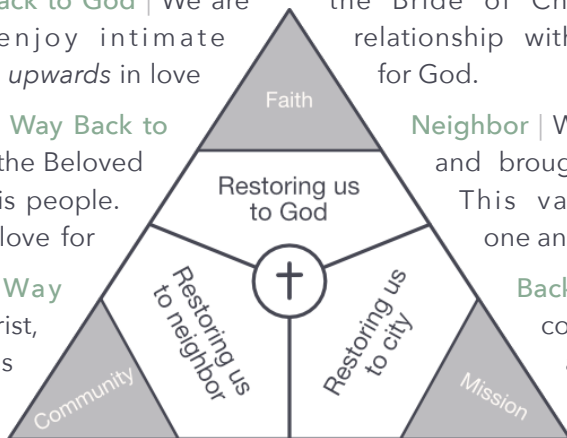
FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

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!



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

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Hangout - Today!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on most first Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon (we may shift inside depending on weather). We'll also open the gym for people to play in!

For more info, please contact us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

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