

Title: **"Follow Me": Our Mission Defined and Displayed**
Text: **Luke 5:27-32**
Date: **August 30, 2026**

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



Big Idea

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

1. Our Mission Defined

"Restore"

The word "restore" reminds us that things in this life are not currently what they ought to be. Restoration is needed because some kind of breakdown has occurred.

"To God, Neighbor, and City"

With regard to *God*, in Gen. 1, Adam and Eve, the first representatives of humanity, are created to exist in God's presence, as his friends, enjoying intimate relationship with him. With regard to *neighbor*, in Gen. 2, God said it was "not good that the man should be alone" (v. 18). We were created not just for relationship with him but with each other. With regard to *city*, back in Gen. 1, God gives them a sense of purpose in the place that he's put them (cf. v. 28). But in Gen. 3, when they side with the serpent in rebellion against God, it's as if the whole tapestry of creation begins to unravel. All that God had established for us starts to break down.

"Through the Good News of Jesus Christ"

Yet, even then and there, God makes us a promise (Gen. 3:15) regarding one who will someday come and put his heel to the head of the serpent (though the serpent would in the process wound him as well). He will take all the brokenness and turn it to beauty again. He's the one who will lead the way in this rescue mission, this restoration project. And his name is Jesus.

2. Our Mission Displayed

"Restore"

Levi is sitting at the tax booth. He's looking for something. He was willing to turn on his own countrymen, to work for "the enemy," to cut corners, to cheat and steal—because he thought money would satisfy.

"To God"

Jesus meets Levi right there in the tax booth, right there in the very act of sin and rebellion. Jesus doesn't wait for us to clean up and come to him. He comes to us in our uncleanness. He meets us in our mess. Right there, in that place, the invitation is issued: "Follow me."

Sometimes, it's the richest of people who are the most ready for Jesus. Why? Because, in some sense, they've already had all the world could offer . . . and found it lacking.

"To Neighbor"

Jesus won't let us have him without his people. In fact, one of the litmus tests the NT gives us for how we are doing in our relationship with Jesus is to look at how we are doing in our relationship with our brothers and sisters in the church. If we're off with them, we're off with him (cf. 1 John 4:20).

"To City"

Levi wants to introduce his old crew to his new crew and to the one who changed everything for him, Jesus (v. 29). It's restoration to God, neighbor, and city.

"Through the Good News of Jesus Christ"

The only reason Jesus can share the table with Levi is because he knows he'll soon die for him. Jesus didn't come merely to eat with us. He came to live and die and rise for us. That's what throws back open the door. That's what makes all of this restoration possible!



Reflection Questions

- How do you relate to Levi? In what way is his story and experience of Jesus similar to your own?
- Which of the three directions conveyed in our mission statement (*up* to God, *in* to neighbor, *out* to city) do you need the most help with from Jesus right now would you say and why?

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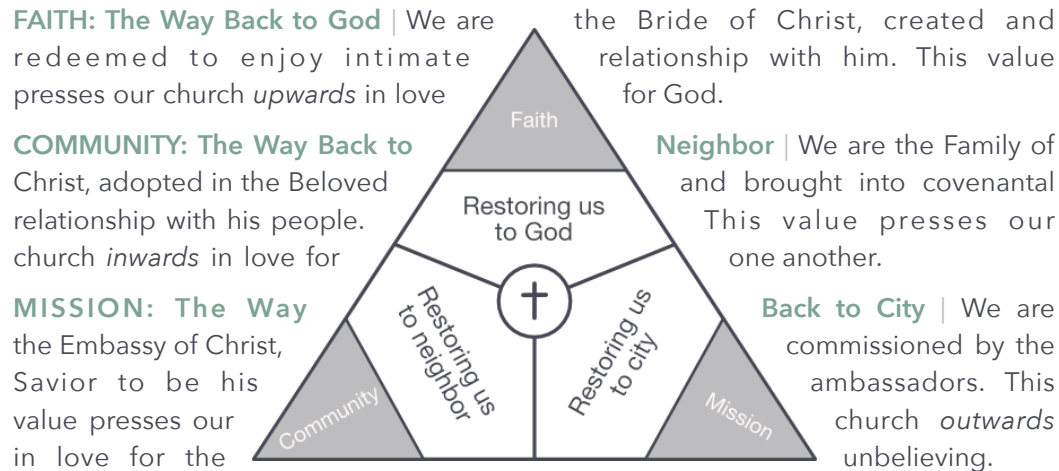


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Give your offering online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or place it in the dropbox at the back.

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

Fall Kickoff - Starting Today!

Throughout the next few weeks (beginning Sunday, August 30th), we will be encouraging you to consider ways you might **plug in** (e.g. via Home Groups, DNA Groups, etc.) and **pour out** (e.g. serving on a team, etc.). We're not doing this to pressure or manipulate you. We're not trying to make your full schedule even more overloaded than it already is. We're after your flourishing and your joy. We truly believe that if we want to be healthy followers of Jesus (and healthy humans for that matter) our meaningful involvement in a local church is not an option. It's essential. We trust you believe that as well. In light of this, here are a few things you can look forward to in the weeks ahead:

- On Sunday, August 30th (today!), one of our pastors will deliver a special message revisiting the mission of Mercy Hill.
- That same Sunday (today!), we will also hold our Fall Kickoff BBQ after the service. This will be a great time for you to connect with various group and ministry team leaders.
- Throughout the weeks, we will be sharing stories and spotlighting different ways you can plug in and pour out.
- We have created a Fall Kickoff Fellow-Up Form that we are encouraging everyone to fill out. We'd be so appreciative if you would!

Thanks already for your meaningful participation in our church family. Here's to even more!

To learn more, scan the QR code below.

Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

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

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SUNDAY SIDEBAR

A digital space designed to supplement your Sunday Service experience.