

Title: **"I Have Appeared to You for This Purpose": Jesus Saves Us to Send Us**
Text: **Acts 26:9-18**

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



Big Idea

Jesus doesn't save us just to save us. He saves us to send us. He brings us in to thrust us out. He gives us a place with himself and a purpose in this world!

1. The Midday Appointment

Observation #1: Jesus Lowers Us and Lifts Us at the Same Time

The crazy thing about the Christian life is that it's both a call to step down and a call to step up at the same time. Jesus lowers us and he lifts us. Paul's thrown into the dirt . . . on his face—but then he's told to rise and stand up . . . on his feet (v. 16)!

Observation #2: Jesus Sends Us and Delivers Us at the Same Time

To be a Christian is to be a "sent one of God." In a sense, every Christian is to be a missionary, if not formally, then certainly informally—in everyday life.

Jesus promises to deliver us from the very people he's sending us to (v. 17). What does that mean? It means that suffering comes along with the sending. Knowing that, are we still willing to go?

2. The Essential Task

"[O]pen their eyes" (v. 18). This is an impossible ask. I can't make people see. I can't open the eyes of the spiritually blind. That's beyond my skillset. That's above my pay grade. I can't do that in and of myself. And I think that's the point. What I can't do alone, I can do with him.

#1: We Can Speak to God about Them

In other words, we can pray for the folks we're trying to reach (v. 29).

#2: We Can Speak to Them about God

The fact that we must be praying is in no way meant to imply that we don't need to be persuading. Paul was doing both! Yes, we talk with God about them. But we also talk with them about God. Because here's the thing: God may not need us, but he is still pleased to use us. We may not be the first and fundamental cause of someone's salvation, but we may indeed be the critical means—the tool that God chooses to use. The hammer may not have built the table, but the carpenter did use it to build it. We may not be ultimate in the matter of someone's salvation, but we are still significant.

3. The Cascading Effect

Turn #1: From Darkness to Light

Turn #2: From Satan to God

Gift #1: Forgiveness of Sins

Every accusation Satan could rightly level against you, is redirected to Jesus. He receives it. He wears it. He carries it. He pays for it. And, in that, he cancels it (cf. Col. 2:13-15). Satan had a case against us until the Son went to the cross for us. Now he has nothing left to say.

Gift #2: A Place with Him

We're lowered to the dirt and then we're lifted to the sky. We were once at odds with God, but now we have a home with him. We were on the outside but now we're brought in. Because of Jesus.



Reflection Questions

- Jesus lowers and lifts us at the same time. Which side of that do you need most today and why?
- God doesn't save you just to save you. He saves you to send you. To whom is God sending you?
- Are you praying for the people in your life that God is sending you to? Are you talking to God about them? Are you talking to them about God? Why or why not?
- Which of the "cascading effects" outlined in point three means the most to you right now and why?

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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

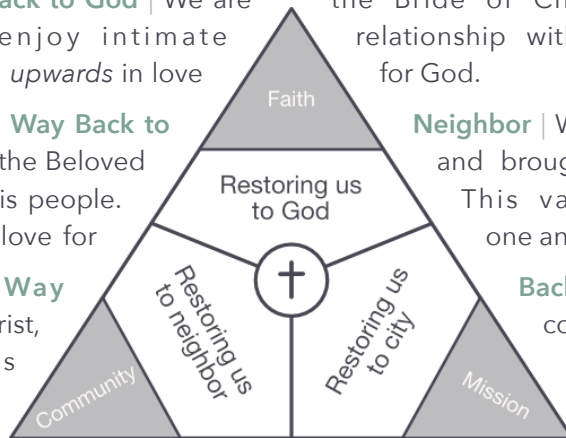
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

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

Missions Emphasis Sunday (and Lunch) - 10/4!

Mercy Hill's Missions Emphasis Sunday this year is on October 4th. Here are a couple things to look forward to:

- We'll have a special message from a guest speaker.
- We're catering a FREE meal for all to enjoy after the service. Please scan the QR code below for more information and to [RSVP](#) (by 9/30).

We hope you can engage with us in this as we learn and grow together to be Christ's "... witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

If you have any questions, please reach out to **Manzhen Chen** at manzhen.chen@gmail.com.

Allen at Steinbeck Gardening Project - October 10th!

Sunday Prayer Walk - Today!

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.