

Title: **"Take Heart": How to Sabbath in the Storm**
Text: **Acts 27**
Date: **October 18, 2026**

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



Big Idea

How do we find peace on the near side of God's provision? So often we assume we can only experience it after he provides, after he rescues, after the storm subsides and there is calm in the waters of our life again. Is it even possible to sabbath in the storm? According to Acts 27 ... yes!

1. The Chaos (vv. 1-20)

"When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned" (v. 20). It's dark, it's stormy, it seems like it's all over. There's no more reason to hope. Have you ever felt like that? Are you feeling like that in some ways even now?

2. The Comfort (vv. 21-32)

Aspect #1: Belonging

God doesn't come to rob, pillage, and exploit you. He comes to be robbed, pillaged, and exploited for you on that cross. He doesn't take your life. He gives you his. This is how we come to belong to God (cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9). He doesn't purchase you to get from you, he purchases you to put you back together, to care for you, to hold you close now and forever. And that's why life—even the hard stuff of life—it just hits you so differently when you know you're in this kind of God's hands.

Aspect #2: Destiny

It's not just that God has laid hold of Paul by grace. It's that God also has laid out a plan for him and his life. And that plan will be fulfilled. He's God after all. So there's not just Belonging here. There's a sense of Destiny. The God who purchased you has a purpose for you. And a little storm at sea can't derail that. God uses the persecution in Jerusalem to get Paul to Caesarea. And he uses the trials in Caesarea

to get Paul on this ship. And he uses the storm on this ship to get Paul to Rome. Even the hard stuff he turns for good. Even when it seems like he's fumbled, he's still carrying that ball towards the line. What if you believed that? Wouldn't that change the way you experienced the storm?

3. The Calm (vv. 33-44)

Front #1: Faith

You've got to wrestle with the question: Do I really believe this? That's why Paul is able to have calm in the chaos. As he puts it in v. 25: "So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told." Do you?

Front #2: Surrender

Sometimes the most challenging thing in all this isn't believing that God can take a hard thing and spin it towards a happy ending, it's accepting that this is the story he's writing for you. That's where the rub is a lot of times. I know you can bring good from the storm, but I don't want the storm! It's not so much about Faith at this point as much as it is about Surrender.

I've got one seemingly simple application point for you this week: *Enjoy a good meal with some good friends.* Stop and sabbath a bit. Let it linger into the night. Don't wait until you get all your stuff in line. Don't worry about the wind howling outside your window. Don't obsess so much over the waves. Don't fret about what tomorrow may bring. Take heart. God has you. He's going to keep you. He's going to carry you across that line. It's going to be okay.



Reflection Questions

- In what way has your life felt a bit like a "sinking ship" lately?
- Which aspect of the comfort given to us here do you have the most trouble believing in harder times: *Belonging* (he's laid his hand on me and loves me) or *Destiny* (he's laid out a plan for me and will fulfill it)? What would change if you did?
- Are there parts of your life that are still "unsurrendered"? Are there ways you fight back against the story God is writing in your life? What's keeping you from letting go?!

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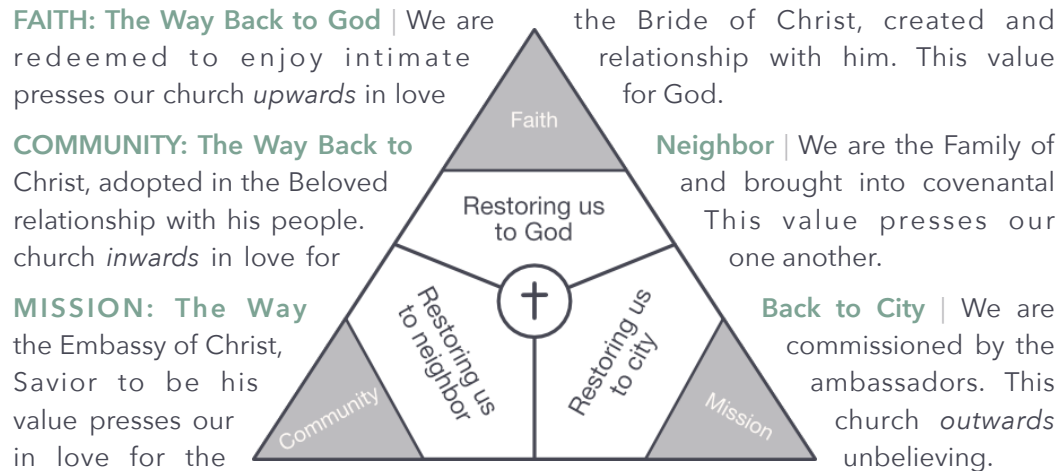


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Our Mission & Values

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

Pumpkin Carving Party

Mark your calendars for Mercy Hill's 5th annual Pumpkin Carving Party! This year's party will take place on Saturday, October 31st from 2:00-4:00pm at Allen at Steinbeck Elementary School. This event is for folks in our church, but it is also (and especially!) for our friends, family, and those in our local community. Feel free to spread the news and invite anyone you think would be blessed.

TO ATTEND: If you're planning to attend (and/or you've invited a friend), please scan the QR code and find the link to RSVP by Wednesday (10/28) to guarantee a FREE pumpkin for your child(ren), ages 2-18.

TO VOLUNTEER: If you're already a part of Mercy Hill Church, we need YOUR help to make this happen! To volunteer, please scan the QR code and find the link to sign up.

For any questions, please reach out to Joey at joey@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Christmas Bookmark-Making for Arms of Love

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

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