

Title: **They Killed Him, We Killed Him . . . God Killed Him . . . for Us!**  
Text: **Acts 2:22-23**  
Date: **July 9, 2023**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).

## Big Idea

Who is responsible for the death of Jesus? Some might say Judas, others the Jewish leaders, still others Pilate. Those with even deeper insight into Scriptures' teaching would admit that, in a very real sense, we are all guilty of it. And all of this is true. But there is yet one more (and glorious!) answer we can give: God did it. God gave his Son over to death in love for the very sinners who hung him there!

### 1. Attesting Signs

These "mighty works", "wonders", and "signs" are God's stamp of approval. They are Jesus' accreditations. They are his credentials. God really is with him. Therefore, the implication is: take what he says and does with the utmost seriousness.

#### Observation #1: Christianity Is Not Opposed to Reason . . .

God gives signs. He gives reasons for faith. He doesn't ask you to close your eyes and "just believe." He asks you to open your eyes and truly see. Christianity is not a leap in the dark but a step towards the light!

#### Observation #2: . . . But We Often Are!

Christianity is not opposed to reason . . . but we, on the other hand, often are! Our rejection of Jesus and Christianity is fundamentally not an issue with the facts or the evidence, it's an issue with our hearts. At the end, it's not so much about what we do or don't *know*, it's about what we do or don't *want*. Man's biggest problem isn't that he lacks the light, it's that he loves the darkness (John 3:19).

### 2. Definite Plans

It seems to me that, perhaps in our well-intentioned desire to understand the Scriptures' teaching, as we go about trying to cram the things of God into our little minds, we inevitably end up making cer-

tain reductions—downgrading things from their full complexity to something simpler, something we can get our heads around. And when we do so, we inevitably introduce marked distortions and errors. In other words: because we're not comfortable with *mystery* . . . we end up in *heresy*. At the heart of the orthodox Christian faith has always been mystery—and understandably so, because we are creature and he is Creator.

God is sovereign. Man is responsible. We see the two lines run through the Scriptures. But how they both are true we sometimes struggle to ascertain. The lines converge in the clouds.

At the cross, it wasn't the slippery wiles of Judas or the Jewish leaders that snagged Jesus; it wasn't the sheer force of Roman might that cornered him; it wasn't the devil or his demons that had him outsmarted or outgunned. As Peter goes on to say in Acts 2:24, it wasn't even possible for death to hold him down. If the grave couldn't hold him, you can know for certain it wasn't those old rusty nails that held him to the beams. So if not all this, what was it? It was love (Eph. 5:2; Gal. 2:20).

### 3. Personal Rejections

"As we face the cross . . . we can say to ourselves both, 'I did it, my sins sent him there,' and 'He did it, his love took him there'" (John Stott, *The Cross of Christ*, 64).

Is Christ's blood on our hands? Absolutely. But here's the thing: the very blood of Christ that stains our hands (in guilt) is the same blood that washes our hands and our hearts clean (in mercy). Yes, we killed Christ in rebellion against God. But God killed Christ in love for us. In the greatest mystery of providence, God turns my sin for my salvation.

## Reflection Questions

- When it comes to the tension Scripture holds between divine sovereignty and human responsibility, which side are you prone to fall off on? How would maintaining this "mysterious orthodoxy" help with what you are facing this week?
- Has the cross of Christ become a personal affair for you? Interact with the quote from John Stott above. Can you say both of these things with the utmost sincerity? Why or why not?

W

E

L

C

O

M

E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A



CONNECTION CARD

Give online at [mercyhillchurch.org/give](https://mercyhillchurch.org/give) or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

## 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 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 the

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our church *outwards* in love for the

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

**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!



**Mail:** PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153  
**Phone:** (408) 320-7080  
**Email:** [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org)  
**Web:** [mercyhillchurch.org](https://mercyhillchurch.org)



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

## Announcement Spotlight

### Mercy Hill Youth Hangout - Today!

All Mercy Hill Youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited for a hangout after service today at 12:30pm! We'll have time for fellowship, prayer, and getting in God's Word. And we even plan to provide some pizza! Our plan, weather permitting, is to meet at the picnic tables in the pavilion around the back of Allen at Steinbeck Elementary. See ya there!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [youth@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:youth@mercyhillchurch.org).

### Mercy Hill Kids - Summer Activities!

Mercy Hill Kids would like to invite all the families in our church to join us for a summer of fellowship and exploration! Please mark your calendars with the dates listed below and feel free to invite friends, neighbors, and family to join in on the fun! Each day will include a short devotional pertaining to the activity and then lots of time exploring, laughing, and enjoying fellowship with one another.

- Tuesday July 18 - Creek Walking
- Tuesday August 8th - Redwood Hike
- Saturday August 19th - Marsh Walk / Birdwatching

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Megan Weber at [kids@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:kids@mercyhillchurch.org)

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).