

Title: **I Want to Know about That Glow!**
Text: **Acts 16:6-15**
Date: **August 17, 2025**

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Big Idea

Every Christian is a missionary, at least in a lowercase m sort of way. We've all been sent by God to reach the people around us. But do we know what that looks like? Do we know where to start? This story in Acts can help us along!

"Every Christian . . . is either a missionary or an impostor. . . . You either try to spread abroad the kingdom of Christ, or else you do not love him at all. It cannot be that there is a high appreciation of Jesus and a totally silent tongue about him. . . . [T]hat man who says, 'I believe in Jesus' but does not think enough of Jesus ever to tell another about him . . . is an impostor" (Charles Spurgeon, "A Sermon and a Reminiscence").

Lesson #1: Be Ready to Go Whenever and Wherever God Calls

"Here I am! Send me" (Isa. 6:8). It's only when a sense of the holiness of God is brought together with a fresh experience of the mercy of God that an eruption is set off in the heart of a person. It makes a missionary of you, propelling you outward to the world around. You see his holiness and his glory, on the one hand: "I deserve judgment for my sin." But you see his mercy and his grace and his love, on the other hand: "Somehow, even still, I'm forgiven. I'm washed. I'm free because of Jesus and this altar of sacrifice." So you want to go . . . whenever, wherever God calls!

Lesson #2: When in Doubt, Start with the Bigger Cities

"There is a sense in which the city is vindicated in the history of the early church—not in the sense that the city is mainly good or cordial to the gospel but in the sense that the city is where most people now live and where the influential power structures exist. . . . It is easy to see that the mission strategy of the early church was to evangelize the city.

It is no exaggeration to say that in Acts the church is almost exclusively associated with the city" (Dictionary of Biblical Imagery, "City").

Lesson #3: Look for Where God Is Already Moving

The whole world is an evangelist's playground. We've all been made in God's image. We all live in God's world. So all of life provides on-ramps to God's truth. All roads lead to Christ—you just have to identify which road a person is currently traveling down and show them the way to Jesus from there.

Lesson #4: Don't Forget to Open Your Mouth

"Christians [should] care about all suffering, especially eternal suffering" (John Piper).

Lesson #5: Trust Him to Do the Deeper Work

Your job is to open your mouth; God's job is to open their hearts (v. 14). To see it any other way is to both underplay the hardness of the human heart in sin and overplay your own ability to break through and control the situation. They're not getting it and you're not convincing them . . . unless God breaks in with sovereign grace.

Lesson #6: Stay the Course through the Good and the Hard

What they won't receive from you when all is going well for you, they just might receive from you when everything is falling down around you. Sometimes people won't see Christ burning brightly in you until everything goes dark around you. "How is there still light? What's the source of this for you? I want to know about that glow!"



Reflection Questions

- Have you been living like a missionary sent by God to this city lately or not? If not, what needs to change?
- Which of the six lessons identified in this sermon seems most relevant to you right now and why?
- What other lessons might you draw out from the verses of our text? Please share!

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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

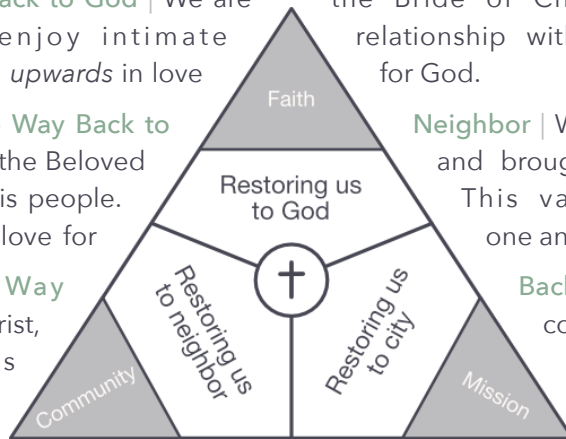
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

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!



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



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

Announcement Spotlight

Join a Home Group!

Home Groups are the heartbeat of our church. They are the place where our values of Faith, Community, and Mission gain traction in the everyday. They are small, typically intergenerational, groups that meet regularly to break bread, seek God in his Word, share hearts and lives, and pursue avenues of service and witness in the surrounding neighborhood and city.

Our goal is to have everyone in one. So are you?

Scan the QR code below for more info.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Sunday Prayer Walk - August 24th!

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.