

Title: **Midnight Melodies (Part 2)**
Text: **Acts 16:16-40**
Date: **September 7, 2025**

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Big Idea

When we leave Christ to pursue gain in the here and now, we lose in the end. When we count all as loss for the sake of Christ, we gain more than we could have ever imagined, both now and forever, in him. Some of this “gain” is outlined in our text. We gain invincible joy, fruitful labor, spiritual family, and ultimate vindication!

Gain #2: Fruitful Labor

“If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me” (Phil. 1:22).

People around Paul and Silas are coming to faith. People are seeing them and seeing Jesus.

Sighting #1: They See Their Joy . . . Even in Suffering

These missionaries are free before they’re ever set free. Did you notice that? They didn’t just start singing for joy when the earthquake came and the doors swung open. No. They were singing for joy even when the sky was dark and the doors were shut tight. It’s crazy. But I’ll tell you what it also is: compelling—to anyone around, who’s hearing this, seeing this. The joy you somehow still have in Jesus, even in the hardest of times, is one of the most effective evangelist tools in your belt. Anyone can have joy when life is going well, but if you still have joy even when it’s all coming down around you . . . “I want to know about that!” (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).

Sighting #2: They See Their Love . . . Even for the Very Ones Causing the Suffering

Which would you say is the greater miracle? The fact that the earthquake shook in such a way that the prison doors were opened, the bonds were unfastened, and Paul and Silas were free to go? Or the fact that the earthquake shook, the prison doors were opened, the bonds were unfastened, and even though they were free to go . . .

they still chose to stay . . . in love? I tell you the that is the greater miracle by far! There are people in your life who won’t see Jesus until they see you suffer for them in love?! So often God uses self-sacrificial love to break through and reveal himself to others. God does not intend for his missionaries to merely *bring* the message. He intends for them to also *be* the message. You don’t just *talk* about the cross, you *look* like it in the way you live . . . and in the way you love.

Gain #3: Spiritual Family

They are gaining a spiritual family—a family not fundamentally established by their own flesh and blood, but by the torn flesh and shed blood of Jesus. And what we see is that the self-sacrificial love of Jesus that first *establishes* this family comes to *mark* this family as well. As he sacrificed in love for them, they start to sacrifice in love for each other. When Jesus gets in, everyone gets low, everyone lays themselves down for the other. Everyone wants a vibrant and loving community. But few are willing to make the sacrifice required to get there. It doesn’t just happen. Don’t wait around for it to just happen. Don’t wait around for others to come and sacrifice for you. Go to them. Be the catalyst for community.

Gain #4: Ultimate Vindication

Stuff in this life can get really hard. And maybe you’re in a season like that right now. But this text reminds us that a day is coming when the tide will turn, when the script will flip, when the sun will come up, when the prison doors will open, when God will make all the wrong right . . . when all that you’ve lost for Christ will finally give way to nothing but gain! And I’m not saying this is going to happen next week, or next month, or next year, or even in this life. That’s that point of that word “ultimate”—“Ultimate Vindication.” It’s coming at the end. Wait for it (cf. Isa. 40:31)!



Reflection Questions

- Has following Jesus felt more like loss or gain to you lately? Why?
- Which seems the hardest for you: having joy in suffering, or loving those who hurt you? Why do you think? How can Jesus help?

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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

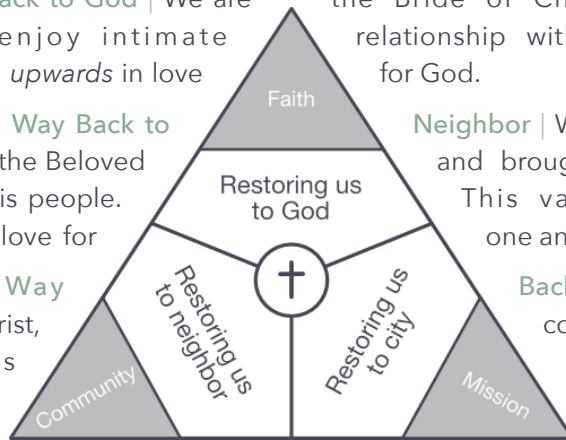
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

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

All Church Hangout - Today!

Meaningful community is hard to find in Silicon Valley, even in the church. Our congregation is spread out all over the city. But there is one day of every week when we all commit to gather together and worship our God: Sunday. It seems strategic to take this pre-existing momentum and work with it in an attempt to develop deeper community within our body. Therefore, on most first Sundays throughout the year we will invite the church to enjoy picnic-style afternoons together immediately following the service.

The Plan: After service, bring or buy your lunch and join us at the tables out back for a picnic-style afternoon (we may shift inside depending on weather). We'll also open the gym for people to play in!

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

All Church Prayer - Cancelled

Acts 29 Global Prayer Meeting - September 16th

Covenant Membership Class - September 21st!

Join a Home Group!

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