

Title: **"I Have Many in This City"**
Text: **Acts 18:1-17**
Date: **October 19, 2025**

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Big Idea

As Christians, we are not just saved by Jesus, we are also sent by him. In our text today, we discover a number of things we ought not to be if, in fact, we want to be a church on mission like these early Christians.

"The Church is the only organization that exists solely for the benefit of non-members." - William Temple

1. Don't Be Solitary

Wherever Paul goes, he's always looking to go with others. He knows he can't do this thing alone. And he doesn't try to.

2. Don't Be Entitled

"What kind of King would step down from his throne? What kind of Son would move far from his home? Trading a crown of gold for thorns. Exchanging a Father's love for scorn. Though he was found in the form of God, he emptied himself for me on that cross."

This is the God we worship. He's the only one truly entitled. And yet there's no entitlement. He just gives of himself to death for us.

Entitlement can't exist in a gospel atmosphere. It's choked right out. Like a fish trying to live on the land. It doesn't belong there. It can't survive there.

3. Don't Be Negligent

If sharing the gospel means I'm "innocent" of your blood (v. 6)—withholding the gospel, neglecting to share it, must mean I'm, in some sense at least, guilty of it. The gospel is not some secret we whisper amongst ourselves on a Sunday. It's a message meant to be trumpeted out in the world (Ezek. 33:1-9).

4. Don't Be Pushy

Sometimes we don't say enough. Other times we say too much—we argue and fight and try to push people over the edge and into faith. I can bring the medicine to you. I can even hold it to your lips. But I can't make you take it.

5. Don't Be Silent

"There was a time at Corinth when things were hard; there had been some converts, certainly, but opposition was mounting and even Paul, the dauntless, was wondering whether it was worth persevering there. 'And,' we are told, 'the Lord [Jesus] said to Paul one night in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people'" (Acts 18:9-10). As if to say: go on preaching and teaching, Paul, and let nothing stop you; there are many here whom I mean to bring to myself through your testimony to my gospel. . . . Thus the sovereignty of God in grace gave Paul hope of success as he preached to deaf ears, and held up Christ before blind eyes, and sought to move stony hearts. His confidence was that where Christ sends the gospel there Christ has his people—fast bound at present in the chains of sin, but due for release at the appointed moment through a mighty renewing of their hearts as the light of the gospel shines into their darkness and the Savior draws them to himself. . . . Paul's confidence should be our confidence too." - J.I. Packer

6. Don't Be Afraid

If you're a Christian in this place, you can know that, someday soon, God is going to take all the wrong that's been done to you and make it right; he's going to take all your pain and turn it for your profit; he's going to take all the hard stuff and work it for good. So don't be afraid!



Reflection Questions

- Which of the six "don't"s from today's sermon seems most significant to you and why? Which one would you say you are "strongest" in? Which one would you say you are "weakest" in? Why? What steps can you take this week to grow?

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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

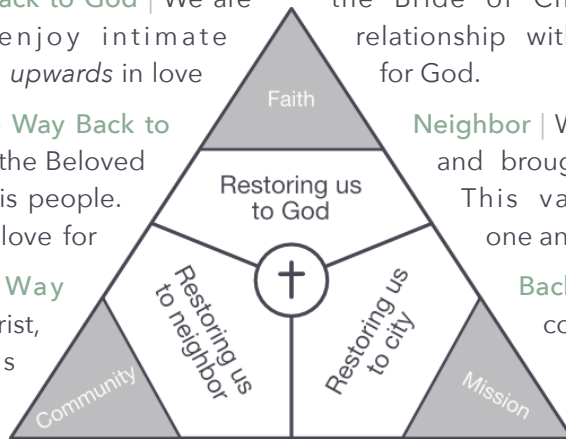
COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

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

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

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal 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!



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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 our 4th annual Pumpkin Carving Party. This year's party will take place on Saturday, October 25th from 3:00-5:00pm at Allen at Steinbeck.

This event is for children ages 2-18. Over the years we've had families from the neighborhood and school and friends of Mercy Hill folks join. It's been a great event for us to bless our neighborhood as well as provide a space for folks to get to know our church!

If you're planning to attend, please RSVP by Wednesday (10/22) to guarantee a pumpkin for your child(ren).

If you're interested in volunteering to help or attending this event (or both!), please scan the QR code below to find more info.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joey at joey@mercyhillchurch.org.

All Church Prayer - Cancelled

Sunday Prayer Walk - Pumpkin Promo!

Philippines Missions Trip - Two Ways to Support!

Scan the QR code below for more info!

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