

Title: **"No Little Disturbance": When Jesus Messes Up Your Life**
Text: **Acts 19:21-20:6**
Date: **November 16, 2025**

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Big Idea

To be sure, Jesus is going to make a mess of our lives . . . because he loves us. He puts his finger on idols and things that need to change if we're to be spiritually healthy and right with God. Some people respond with submission, trusting his heart and hand. Others respond with rage and fight against him. What will you do?

1. The Origin

Idolatry starts on the ground and moves up to the heavens from there. It begins with man and then projects onto god. That's the fatal error. It starts on earth, not in heaven. It starts with us, not with him.

Christianity, on the other hand, finds its starting point with God. He's not only made man, he's come down to man, as a man, as *the* Man, Jesus. And he's revealed in authoritative fashion: what God is like, who he is, who we are, and what we need.

2. The Motive

In a sense, ancient people were simply more honest about their idolatry and worship than modern people are. Where they were overt with it, we're covert. We don't prop imagined gods up behind what we want and pray to them. We just go right after what we want. It's still worship. It's still idolatry. We still attach our ultimate hope to it and sacrifice everything else in our life to it. We just cut out the middle-man, as it were. So we don't talk about Artemis. We talk about that which Artemis gives us. That's what we're really after. That's the idol beneath the idol. That's what really has our heart.

For these Ephesians, and for idolatry in general, the motive is self-serving greed. That's what's in the heart behind this. That's the fuel in the tank. That's what's turning the crank. But, you know, for the Christian, it can be, it should be, it truly is the complete opposite. Instead of self-serving greed, Christians are driven by self-sacrificing love.

3. The Community

For these idolaters here, if you noticed, their community is marked by civic pride, local patriotism, even ethnocentrism, you could say. They are fighting for their city, their culture, their way, their people . . . over and against everyone else. There's a superiority complex. But, of course, underneath any superiority complex is terrible insecurity, isn't there? The reason I have to fight to prove why I'm better than you is because I fear I'm not.

Because the cross of Christ is situated at the center of our faith, the whole superiority complex is dismantled. The message at the core of the Christian gospel is: It's okay to stop pretending you're good enough, God knows you're not. You can't do it. You can't save yourself. You can't get right. You're scared, weak, broken, sinful. Let's finally admit that. We're not okay. But that is okay. Why? Because Jesus came and died for people just like that, for people like you and me!

4. The End

I know sometimes it feels like we're losing big. The people in our text are being manhandled, beat up, run out of town. Jesus literally is a dead man hanging on that cross. But after cross comes the resurrection. And after the resurrection comes the ascension. And after the ascension, Jesus sat down at the right of his Father in glory, and that's where he will remain—now and forever. And if you're in him, he's got you. It's going to end well.



Reflection Questions

- In what way is Jesus "messaging" up your life right now? What do you think he's up to? What idols of your heart might he be revealing? How are you responding? What did you learn in this sermon that might encourage you to respond differently?

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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

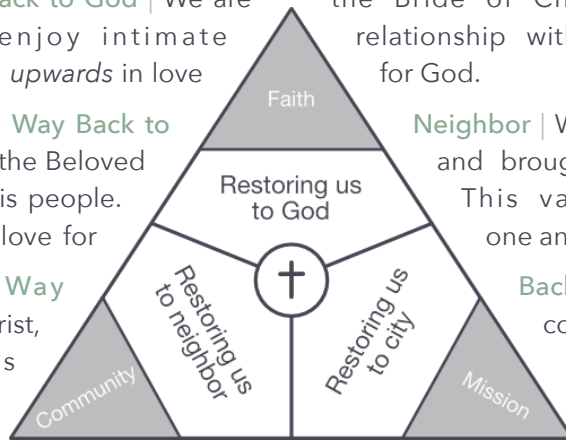
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

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 Appreciation Lunch - 12/7!

Mercy Hill has so many wonderful people who keep all the various dimensions of our ministry thriving and fruitful. And we want to appreciate them! So immediately following the service on Sunday, December 7th, we are planning to have a special all church lunch (think Pizza My Heart pizza party, with salad, dessert, etc.) as a way of saying thanks. The whole church is invited to stay after and participate as we look to particularly appreciate those who have served in various capacities throughout this last year. We hope you can join us!

If you're planning to come, please help us prepare by RSVP'ing (scan the QR code below to find the link).

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

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Ladies Christmas Tea - 12/13/25

CityTeam Volunteer Opportunity - 12/20/25

Upcoming Perspectives Class!

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.