

Title: **For Those in Search of Joy**  
Text: **Luke 24:50-53**  
Date: **April 17, 2022**

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

## Big Idea

We're all in search of a joy that won't flicker or fade. We're looking everywhere for it. But only Jesus can supply it. Because only Jesus can bestow the unending blessing of God.

This theme of "great joy" is what links Christmas and Easter together for Luke. Recall what the angel says to those shepherds out in the field the night Jesus was born: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (Luke 2:10). The angels declared it from the very beginning. Now in Luke 24 we see that Jesus, by way of his death and resurrection, has, in fact, delivered it.

This means that Jesus *came* with a view to your great joy. Jesus *lived* with a view to your great joy. Jesus *died* with a view to your great joy. And Jesus *rose* with a view to your great joy. I daresay, then, Jesus cares more about your joy than you do. He knows you're trying to get through to the light. And he's broken the glass and wants to bring you in!

### 1. The Blessing (v. 50)

As the final act of his earthly ministry, Jesus lifts up his hands to bless his disciples. He's come to bring the blessing of God back to a broken and wayward people. But before Jesus could lift his hands up to impart the fullness of God's blessing to us, he had to spread his arms out wide on that cross and suffer the fullness of God's curse for us.

### 2. The Parting (v. 51)

With the patriarchs and priests there's this sense that they need to pronounce their blessing before it's too late, before their time's run out and they can't bless any longer. It all seems a bit insufficient and incomplete. They can bless, sure, but there's something more fragile and temporary about it.

But this is not the case with Jesus. His blessing is not given before his death but after his resurrection. And his blessing is not brief, it's unending: "While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (v. 51). The picture we're given here is that Jesus is carried away from view, not after he finished blessing his disciples, but while he was still doing so. Implication: the blessing never finished, because it doesn't finish. He's not like the others. We don't end with his burial, we end with his blessing. And the words of his blessing are still echoing on.

### 3. The Joy (vv. 52-53)

#### *Observation #1: It's Tethered to Jesus*

Jesus' greatness is not contrary to us or against us—it's for us. He doesn't use his power and ability to shame or scold us. He uses it to help us, to save us, to bless us. Therefore, the greater he is, the greater my joy. This is why joy here is expressed as "worship." His glory and my joy are not at odds. They rise and fall together. So these disciples worship *and* they rejoice. It's one and the same.

#### *Observation #2: It's Immune to Circumstance*

These disciples were hiding behind locked doors, anxious and afraid. They were sleeping with their "eyes open." The people from Jerusalem, from the temple, could come looking for them. But, when they get the cross and they get the resurrection, they don't care anymore. They go back not with great reluctance, not with great trembling . . . but "with great joy"!

#### *Observation #3: It's from God and to God*

Just as Jesus continues to bless us (showering us with grace and favor), so too we continue to bless him (showering him with honor and praise). That's the dance that Jesus catches us up in!

## Reflection Questions

- Have you ever felt like that moth banging its head against the glass? Are you feeling that way right now? Tell the story.
- How would tethering your joy to Jesus change things for you? What does he offer that the world cannot? What would it look like to turn towards him and receive his blessing this morning?

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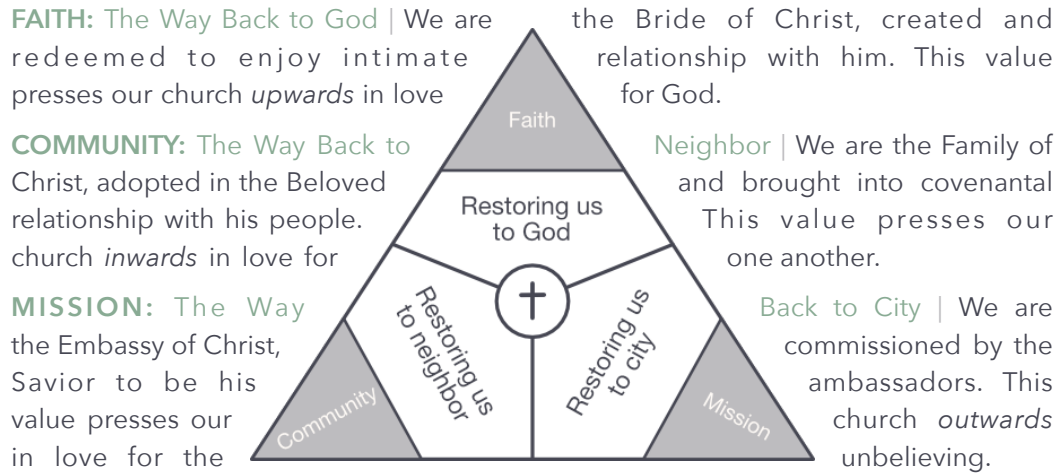


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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*



## 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

### Happy Easter!

Thanks for joining us today as we celebrate the morning our Savior broke free from the grave! Light snacks and refreshments will follow the service as well as an Easter egg hunt for your kids. Please do plan to stick around!

**If you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Feel free to head back to the Next Steps table and grab it!**

### Ever Wondered? - Sunday, April 24!

Once a quarter or so we're looking to deliver new content for our *Ever Wondered?* sermon series. On these particular Sundays, we'll tackle tough questions that those skeptical or curious about Christianity might be asking—questions like:

- Where can I find lasting happiness?
- Why should I trust the Bible?
- Aren't Christians all hypocrites?
- Don't science and faith contradict each other?
- If God is so good, why is there so much pain in the world?
- Etc.

The first sermon in this series is scheduled for next Sunday, April 24. On this Sunday, we'll try to answer the question: **Who Was the Jesus of History, Really?** Come! And please do prayerfully consider who else God might have you invite!

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

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