

Title: **The Heart of God**
Text: **Jonah 4:5-11**
Date: **July 24, 2022**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

The Gospel message isn't just about God's love, mercy and grace for us -- but for others as well. Oftentimes we lose sight of this when our hearts become hardened or self-focused.

In Jonah 1, Jonah runs away from God as Jonah disobeys God's command to go to Nineveh. But as Jonah is drowning in an ocean in Jonah 2, Jonah cries out and runs toward God in prayer. In Jonah 3, Jonah runs with God in obedience as Jonah preaches God's word to the city of Nineveh and they respond in repentance. Finally, Jonah tries to run God in Jonah 4.

1. Jonah's C_____ H_____ Heart (vv.5,9)

Jonah's Continued D_____ for God's J_____ on Nineveh (cf. Genesis 19:23, 28)

Cf. 1 John 4:7-21, Ezekiel 36:26-27

2. God's C_____ M_____ & M_____ Heart (vv.6-11)

....Towards J_____

....Towards N_____

3. The C_____ Heart of Jonah & God (vv.10-11)

Jonah's Concern for a P_____ vs. God's Concern for the P_____



Reflection Questions

- Are there areas in your heart where it has become hardened to God and/or others? If so, in what ways?
- Are there people (whether specific or general) who you find yourself feeling less compassionate -- instead of growing in greater love for -- these days? Why?
- In what ways might your perspective on life (i.e. things, people, etc.) been distorted or skewed? What might it look like to have one eye on eternity while living this life in the here and now?
- How have you been living life like Jonah (i.e. being focused on your personal comforts, interests, priorities, agenda, and life)?
- In what ways do you need to be reminded (or hold onto) God's merciful and missional heart -- for you personally as well as for others? In what ways do you need to be reminded of Jesus and the Gospel message?
- For Parents: Spend some time this week in discussing with your child(ren) how the Gospel frees us to love others with the good news of Jesus -- and how Jesus can change our hardened/self-focused hearts.

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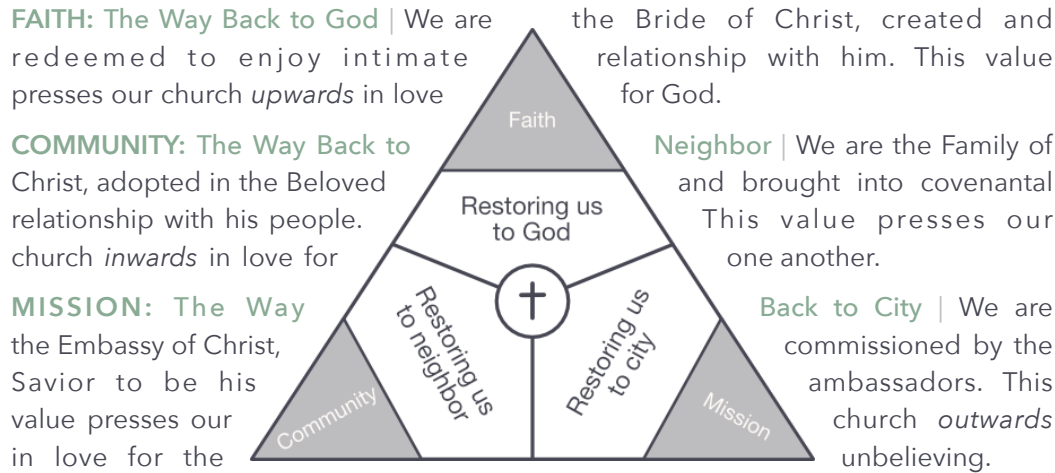


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Our Mission & Values

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

Sunday Prayer Walk

We will be gathering after service today at 1:00pm to do a prayer walk in the local neighborhood! So grab lunch after the service, and consider joining us to pray for our neighboring community, as we hope to have the opportunity to share the gospel with those who are open and ready to engage. We'll have a brief time before the prayer walk to discuss what to pray for, so we invite anyone regardless of experience to join and learn.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Chris Keener at cmkeener2@gmail.com.

Covenant Membership Class - Open Registration!

At the request of some in the congregation, registration for the Covenant Membership Class is now open! If you are interested in becoming a member or simply want to re-familiarize yourself with what we're all about, please register online at mercyhillchurch.org/community/covenant-membership/. We will leave registration open for the next few weeks, then we'll pick a Sunday to hold the class.

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

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