

Title: **Woe #1: The Plunderer Plundered**  
Text: **Habakkuk 2:6-8**  
Date: **September 4, 2022**

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



## Big Idea

We're all tempted to set our hope and heart upon money and the things of this world. But it's a trap. It promises joy while it jeopardizes it. Jesus, on the other hand, made himself poor, so that in him we might become rich in all that truly matters, and all that truly lasts!

### 1. The Reversal

*The Stated Offense (v. 6)*

This is unrestrained greed. They've set their hope on money and stuff because they're trying to fund and build an empire, thinking they'll make a name for themselves, get glory, etc. So they just roll through city after city, plundering without any concern for the needs or even the lives of others.

But in God's economy, they were just borrowing. They didn't own any of it. They took and took and took and they would soon have to pay it back. Ultimately, God is the one they've been robbing. And, in their greed and idolatry, they're getting in over their heads in debt, and that bill is going to come due.

But, you know, we can do the same thing, right? We may not be killing or cheating people to get it. We may not even be racking up big credit card bills or taking out huge loans. Maybe we're just hard-working people, but our hope is set on money and what it promises us: *comfort; security; identity; status*. And that's just as problematic. Because, you see, money can never deliver on these things, only God can.

*The Promised Judgement (vv. 7-8)*

The return of Jesus will be like the breaking in of a thief for some, but it will be like the arrival of the bridegroom for others. And it all turns on where you set your hope. If you are building your house on the sand that is wealth and money and earthly possession, when the hur-

ricane comes, it will not hold. But if you are building your house on Christ, you're on a rock!

### 2. The Rescue

If you look closely at our text, you realize: all that God says will come rightly for Babylon is also what comes, startlingly, for Jesus at Calvary. He's "trembling" in the garden of Gethsemane. He's treated like the debt-slave, as he's tied up and dragged towards the cross. He becomes "spoil" for Jew and Gentile alike. All these vicious folks, like dogs, are "plundering" him. They're casting lots for his last possessions. They've stripped him naked. He's got nothing left.

But he's not guilty. He's not given himself to unjust gain; he's not set his hope or heart upon money; he's not been unfaithful to his Father; he's not pillaged and plundered nor even hurt other people; he's done nothing but love and serve and care for them.

And yet here he is suffering the woe of Babylon, the woe you and I too deserve. This isn't the plunderer being plundered. This is the *perfect one* being plundered. Why? So that he can rescue us. So that he can redeem us. So that he can pull us out from under that debt.

### 3. The Renewal

If you know the love of God for you in Jesus; if you know that all that's his is yours; if you know he's going to provide for and protect you; and all will be well with your soul in the end . . . you can let your stuff go. You don't have to heap up more. You can let release it in love for God and neighbor. You're free!



## Reflection Questions

- Describe your relationship with money. In what ways are you tempted to set your hope and heart on it? What does it promise you that seems so appealing? How does Jesus offer something better?
- Have you experienced the fleeting nature of worldly wealth? Has moth, rust, or thief gotten at it? Tell the story. Where was Jesus when it all came down?
- Read Matthew 6:19-34. What stands out to you here? What's one way these words might change the way you approach this upcoming week?

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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 relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal relationship with his people. This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our church *outwards* 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!



**Mail:** PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153  
**Phone:** (408) 320-7080  
**Email:** [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org)  
**Web:** [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org)



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Mercy Hill Men - A Journey through John 10!

Men of Mercy Hill, let's get into God's Word together! Beginning Saturday, September 10th, we're planning to start up a study going through chapter 10 of John's gospel (give it a quick read—there's some GREAT stuff!). We'll meet every other Saturday at 9:00am at the Walton Residence (319 Fontanelle Dr.). The study will likely be composed of six to eight sessions in total. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

Scan the QR code below to find a link to sign up!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Paul Walton at [pwwalton@comcast.net](mailto:pwwalton@comcast.net).

### 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 occasional 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.

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

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