

Title: **The Dangers of Being Close...**
Text: **Matthew 12:38-45**
Date: **September 11, 2022**

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



Big Idea

Jesus warns us that sometimes we may think we are close to God when in reality we might be closed to God.

1. The Danger of S_____ Without F_____ & B_____ (vv. 38-40)

Cf. Matthew 12:22-24; 9:32-34; Jonah 1:17; Luke 16:30-31

The S_____ of Jesus

2. The Danger of F_____ Without R_____ & H_____ (vv. 41-42)

Cf. Matthew 3:7-9; 7:11, 12:6; Jonah 3; 1 Kings 10; Luke 8:9-14

The S_____ of Jesus

3. The Danger of E_____ Without T_____ & S_____ (vv. 43-45)

The N_____ of Jesus

Reflection Questions

- What do you place your faith in (i.e. what is it based/dependent on)? Is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus sufficient for your faith and salvation -- as well as sharing with others -- why or why not?
- In what ways might you be "close" to Jesus yet still very distant (like the Pharisees)? Why can it be easy to mistake familiarity (with God) with intimacy (with God)?
- Have there been situations where you (or have seen others) experience God -- yet not lead to following & living life with Jesus as their Lord & Savior? Why do you think there's that disconnect?

Parent Corner:

- Which of the aforementioned 3 dangers do you see as potential dangers in the spiritual life & development of your child(ren) -- and possibly yourself?
- Discuss and pray for and with your child(ren) regarding these 3 dangers.

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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

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

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

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

Neighbor | We are the Family of Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for one another.

Back to City | We are commissioned by the Holy Spirit to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the 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

International Student Outreach - Saturday, September 24th!

Mercy Hill will provide the food and program for the International Friendship Group (IFG) dinner for San Jose State University international students on Saturday, September 24th from 6:00 to 8:00pm at Church on The Hill. This is an opportunity for your whole family to come and meet international students, most of whom do not yet know Jesus.

Scan the QR code below to find a link where you can sign up to bring food!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Becky Durstenfeld at beckydurstenfeld@gmail.com.

Afghan Refugee Outreach - Giving Opportunity!

We have been helping an Afghan refugee family as they try to integrate into the Bay Area. We are currently looking to raise funds to help the family purchase a used vehicle. If you would like to contribute to this end, please visit our online giving portal (mercyhillchurch.org/give) and select the "Missions" fund. Thanks!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Marcia at marciabolster@att.net.

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

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