

Title: **Woe #2: The Life-Saver Lost**
Text: **Habakkuk 2:9-11**
Date: **September 18, 2022**

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Big Idea

In our attempts to keep ourselves safe from the reach of harm, ironically, we often put ourselves right in harm's way. When we leave God and his word to pursue security on our own, we leave the only one place true and lasting security is found!

1. The Reversal

The Stated Offense (v. 9)

The stated offense is what comes out for us most clearly there in v. 9. Here is where we see straightaway the connection between the first woe and the second. In the first it was all about this "evil gain." Babylon "plundered many nations" as it was said back up in v. 8. But why did they do so? Ah, that's where something new comes into view with this second woe. It was all "for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm!" They wanted stability, security, safety.

The Promised Judgement (vv. 10-11)

In all your attempts to keep yourself safe from harm, you actually put yourself right in the way of it—because you tried to find that safety and security, not in God, but in your stuff. "If I get enough money in the account, if I get thick enough walls around me, if I get this or I get that, then I'll be safe." But you don't have God. Indeed, again, in all your attempts to keep yourself safe, you've put yourself at odds with the only one who could truly keep you safe. And that's a big problem.

2. The Rescue

If you look closely at our text, you realize: all that God says will rightly come for Babylon, that's what comes for Jesus at the cross. God has come in judgement against his own beloved Son: "Woe to you!"

But, of course, he's done nothing wrong. Though he's receiving here all the judgment God promised the Babylonians, a quick survey of his life makes plain: he's committed none of the offenses. He's

been nothing but honest, and selfless, and generous. He's not taken from people with self-concern. He's given to people with concern for them. He didn't come to build for himself a palace. He came to redeem for himself a people—you and I. He didn't prioritize his own safety over loving others. He loved others at great pains to himself. He didn't build walls to keep people out. He tore down walls so he could let people in, knowing full well that so many would hurt him. He didn't use his great power to protect himself, he used it to offer up himself . . . to rescue us!

3. The Renewal

Goal #1: Eternally Safe in His Love for You

You're safe in God's love, because of the cross, from now on into eternity. I don't care what's coming for you: whether it's cancer or car-crash, poverty or persecution, burglary or betrayal, demon or devil—it doesn't matter. You will conquer because he has conquered. And he loves you. If you don't have Jesus, you're not safe anywhere. But if do have Jesus, you're safe everywhere!

Goal #2: Relentlessly Risky in Your Love for Others

As we start to understand how safe we really are in the love of God for us in Jesus, we can be relentlessly risky in our love for others. We don't have to build up our nest and keep all the hard stuff out. He's got us. We're under his wing now. Instead, we can step towards the hard stuff and love!

Reflection Questions

- "If I could just get _____ then I would finally feel safe and secure." What is it for you? Why do you think? How does Jesus offers a safety more substantial and enduring?
- When Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him, he's calling us to lay our whole lives into his hands. When you consider this, what's one thing you're tempted to hold back? What feels the most challenging for you to surrender? Why? What do you think Jesus will do if you put this in hands? Whatever you may fear, I'll tell you what he'll do: he'll bring good, he'll bring blessing, he'll bring life!
- Read Rom. 8:31-39 again. What stands out to you here? How would you live if you actually believed this?

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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

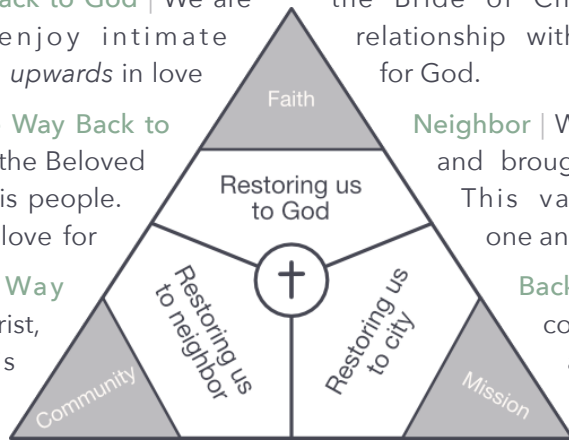
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

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

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.

All Church Prayer - Tonight!

Prayer is the start of everything good (Acts 1:14). It is the death of self-reliance and the lifeline of faith. It is the moving of our eyes outward and upward. It is the stretch of our empty hands towards a Father rich in mercy. As a church we prioritize this regular prayer meeting because of our deep-seated conviction that, while man can plant and water, it is only God who can cause the growth (1 Cor. 3:7).

This Sunday's prayer meeting will held in-person at 6:00pm at the Wilson Residence.

Scan the QR code below for more info.

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

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