

Title: **Woe #5: The Idolater Silenced**  
Text: **Habakkuk 2:18-20**  
Date: **October 16, 2022**

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



## Big Idea

When we put our trust in idols, we become like them: silent and dead. But when we turn from such things and trust in Jesus, we come alive!

### 1. The Reversal

The stated offense is what comes out most clearly for us there in vv. 18-19. And I think it's safe to say we could really sum it up with a single word: "idolatry." But what exactly is idolatry?

*Observation #1: We Derive Idols from the World Around Us*

*Observation #2: We Make, Shape, and Dress Idols to Our Own Liking*

*Observation #3: We Place Our Trust in Idols for Deliverance*

*Observation #4: But Idols Are Dead*

*Observation #5: But Idols Are Dumb*

*Observation #6: But Idols Are Deceptive*

*Observation #7: But Idols Do Not Profit*

*"Modern people in their sophistications may regard themselves as free from the obvious folly of idolatry. What educated, self-respecting person would be deluded into expecting special powers to emanate from the form of an antiquated idol? Yet the new covenant Scriptures make*

*it plain that covetousness is idolatry (Eph. 5:5). Whenever a person's desire looks to the creature rather than the Creator, he is guilty of the same kind of foolishness. An insatiable desire for things not rightly possessed assumes that [such] things can satisfy rather than God himself. Whenever a person sets his priorities on the things made rather than on the Maker of things, he is guilty of idolatry" (O. Palmer Robertson).*

### 2. The Rescue

The judgment that Babylon and you and I deserve for our idolatry, comes crashing down upon Jesus. So I said God will speak and the idolaters will be utterly silenced, made as dead as the idols they've been bowing to. Well, Jesus, on that cross, we're told in Isa. 53:7, he was rendered "silent" [Heb. "speechless", "dumb"]. And of course he's not just silenced there. He's like a lamb "led to the slaughter." He's put to death. He's made dumb and dead. He's being made like the idols we worshipped. Though *he* never worshiped them. He never gave in to such depravity. Though he's taking all the judgment here, he didn't commit any of the offense.

### 3. The Renewal

When you come to know the one true God and his grace for you in Jesus, it changes you! You learn how to be *silent* before God in a submitted and expectant way. And you learn how to *sing*—to truly worship him with all your heart!



## Reflection Questions

- If you need help identifying some of the idols you may be tempted to bow a knee too, let me give you a few questions to ponder that may start to uncover things for you: Where do you run first when life gets hard? What do you trust in for relief, for help, for deliverance? Where do you go looking for water when your soul is thirsty? What do you want? What would you do anything to get? What do you sacrifice for? What would you feel absolutely devastated—like your life wasn't worth living—if you lost?
- Now, with a fresh sense of the idols you may be tempted towards, consider it: how is Jesus better?

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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 God and brought into covenantal relationship with him. This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior 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!



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



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

## Announcement Spotlight

### Members' Meeting - Sunday, October 30th!

Covenant Members, please save the date for our next Members' Meeting to be held after the service on Sunday, October 30th (lunch provided). More details and a form to RSVP will be emailed directly to you in the next few days. Be on the lookout for that!

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

### Mercy Hill Women's New Study - *Adorned!*

*"Imagine older women investing themselves in the lives of younger women. Imagine younger women widening their circle to include women who've walked further down the road. Imagine women of all ages and seasons—being transformed by His truth and making the gospel beautiful and believable to those around them."* This is how the book *Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth describes God's plan for women outlined in Titus 2:1-5, 10.

Join us for a weekly Bible Study based on this book and the accompanying study guide on Tuesday nights beginning October 25th. The 14-week study will include breaks for Thanksgiving week, the month of December, and Valentine's Day. The last meeting will be March 7th. Marcia Bolster will lead an in-person study at 7:00pm in her home near Lake Almaden and Christina Lugo will lead an online study via Zoom at 8:00pm. Each study's ending time will be determined by the group.

For more info and to find a link to register, please scan the QR code below.

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

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