

Title: **In Wrath Remember Mercy**  
Text: **Habakkuk 3:1-2**  
Date: **October 23, 2022**

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



## Big Idea

How do we move from grumbling to singing? What steps can we take? Habakkuk shows us the way. We start with quieting ourselves before God; then we open our Bibles and read; we fight for faith in the things revealed; and in this we start to find our song!

When Habakkuk opens up his mouth now, it's not to complain. It's to sing! And we're left wondering: what exactly has happened? Where, how, did the change occur? Is he just finally giving up the fight, or has he truly changed from the inside out? Obviously, I think it is the latter. And this sermon is going to try to tease out a bit from Hab. 3:2 in particular just what happened—with the hope that this same sort of thing can happen for us in our times of trouble and confusion.

### 1. He Keeps Silent

Silence, if we're honest, is not just awkward, it's a bit scary. Because in the silence we can't hide. We see more of ourselves for who we really are, and that's not always flattering. We're forced to deal with our feelings and the knotted up stuff inside, and we don't want to. But in the silence we also will come to see more of God for who he really is, and it's amazing. It's just what we need. We return to our place in the universe. We get smaller, he gets bigger. And while, initially, that first part stings a bit, as we move into the silence with God, as we "keep silence before him" and consider him as he is "in his holy temple" on his throne in heaven (cf. Ps. 11:4), we find ourselves strangely comforted, stabilized, humbled and elevated at the same time.

### 2. He Hears the Report

God's people go to the reports of his work in the *past* for help in the *present*, to get hope for the *future*. They go back to go forward. They open up their Bibles, as it were, and they listen. They let God reveal

himself, they let him speak through the Scripture. What we learn here is that who God is there and then is connected to who he is here and now. And the way we get fresh help and hope here and now is by going back and letting him remind us of what he did there and then.

### 3. He Fears the LORD

The fear of the Lord isn't a bad thing. It's the beginning of wisdom (Prov. 9:10; cf. 1:7). You see him as he really is, yourself as you really are, and this life is put in proper perspective. You see reality. That's what the fear of God means. When you fear God, you fear nothing else . . . not even Babylon. But when you don't truly fear God, you become afraid and anxious and worried about all manner of things

### 4. He Sings a New Song

You may be there with that Psalmist in Ps. 77: "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" (vv. 7-9). Does that sound familiar? Maybe because of some hardship or trial. Maybe because you see your failures and your sins and you're sure God is done with you. But if Habakkuk could open the OT and see that even in wrath God could be merciful, how much more can we who have the NT and the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ see such things?! We can now this morning throw ourselves down at the foot of the cross and sing out with full confidence: "O LORD, in wrath remember mercy." And he will. He will!



## Reflection Questions

- "I would daresay one of the reasons you and I don't often find ourselves singing to the Lord is we've not learned the secret of being silent before him." Do you agree? Why might this be true?
- How has your Bible reading been going lately? What can you do to put yourself in better position to hear the report of God? Make a plan!
- What have you been afraid of lately? Where are you living like a "functional atheist"? In what ways do you need to fight for faith and the fear of the Lord?

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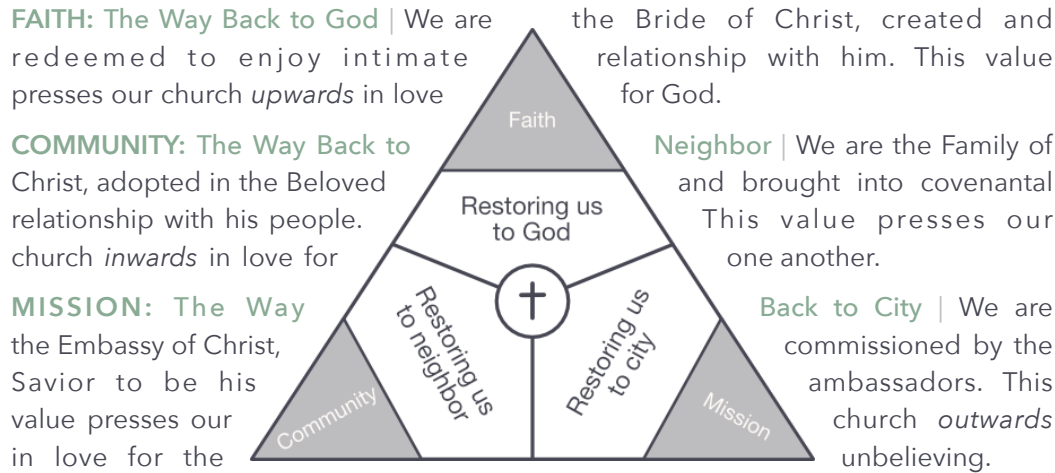


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## Our Mission & Values

*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

### Pumpkin Carving Party - Saturday, October 29th!

Come join us for a fun afternoon of pumpkin carving/decorating (and candy too!) on Saturday (10/29) from 3:00-5:00pm at Allen at Steinbeck Elementary School (courtyard/picnic tables area). This event is for our Mercy Hill Church community, friends and family, as well as for our local community. Please help us get the word out!

If you would like to help out with this event, please contact Joey (email below). Thanks!

**Scan the QR code below to find a link to RSVP. Please do so by Tuesday (10/25) to guarantee a pumpkin for your child(ren) (ages 2-18).**

**If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Joey at [joey@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:joey@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.**

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Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).