

Our New Mission Statement



Sermon Text

John 4:1-30



Big Idea

Mercy Hill exists to help restore you to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

Why the Change?

- (1) **Accessibility**—It uses common language and speaks into common experiences and needs.
- (2) **Directionality**—It sends out clear lines for our church to march in.
- (3) **Coherency**—It dovetails nicely with our values as a church and establishes a more unified whole.

Making Sense of the Mission

Mercy Hill exists to help restore you: The idea of restoration here implies the repairing of something broken, the return to something that once was. It presupposes the fact that the way things are is not the way things are supposed to be, not the way things were designed to function. It touches on the idea that this world, and even we ourselves, are fallen, distorted, broken. And we need help, we need rescue, we need restoration. And that's what Jesus has come to do!

Through the good news of Jesus Christ: “The gospel . . . is good news, not good advice. . . . Advice is counsel about something to do and it hasn't happened yet, but you can do it. . . . News is a report about something that has happened—you can't do anything about it—it's been done for you and all you can do is respond to it” (Tim Keller paraphrasing Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones).

To God: Most everybody in our day would admit that there is something wrong—not just out there, but in here. But, if we were to go out and talk to people on the street, my sense is that hardly anyone would say they think this is resulting from some fundamental fracture in their relationship with God. In other words we can identify the thirst—that we are needy, empty, and broken—but we don't know how to fix it, and we can't identify exactly what's gone wrong in the first place. So we try everything. New career. New diet. New pill. New woman. New man. Anything. We look to physical things to try to fix a fundamentally spiritual problem. But Jesus restores us to God. He gives us living water.

To Neighbor: Jesus has come to break down barriers that divide neighbor from neighbor. He's establishing a people who are not ultimately going to be defined by their gender, or ethnicity, or social status, or religious pedigree . . . but by Him!

To City: Restoring you to city means that your rest, your work, your play, your parenting, your friendships, the way you sit around the dinner table . . . all of life takes on a new meaning and mission. You have a new reason for being.

Reflection Questions



- Why is a mission statement important to have as a church? Do you agree with the one put forward here?
- John 4:1-30 was used as a way of illustrating Mercy Hill's new mission statement. What other texts come to mind that help support and make sense of this statement for you?
- Why is it so important that we remember the gospel is first and fundamentally good *news*? What difference does this make for you?
- Understanding that God calls and equips every member of a local body to play a vital role, how do you think you might be uniquely positioned to help Mercy Hill fulfill this mission in the bay area?