



INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

“Revival is the acceleration of the normal work of the Holy Spirit...” - Jonathan Edwards

Welcome to Mission Hill’s Adullam training for discipleship making. We’re glad to have you with us for the journey.

I. WHAT IS ADULLAM?

This word comes from a physical place in the palestinian landscape that had great significance to Israel’s second and maybe most famous king, David. The story is found in 1 Samuel 22:1-4). It was not merely a cave, but actually a stronghold, that was touted as a great place from which to do battle. For instance, there is ample water in the valley and it had a great vantage point in looking over the land of Judah.

What is striking about this picture is not the cave itself, but the type of people who collected there. Verse 2 describes it well, “And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. These were not the Hebrew version of superheroes of faith, but were broken, frustrated and the outcast of society. What is even more moving is what they become. These people become King David’s, ‘Mighty Men’, who were known for their courage and strength. They didn’t begin that way, but by the grace of God, they finished that way.

Why is this a good image to capture our training? *Because the leaders that God uses are not superheroes of the faith.* They are people who are stumbling their way forward on a journey of becoming more like the Saviour they follow. This isn't a leadership class for the elite; it is a gathering of fellow followers of Jesus who are interested in continuing to find out what He is like and what it means to follow Him. Ready?

1. Gospel meditation.

C.S. Lewis on our desires.

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

C.S. Lewis - The Weight of Glory.



I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

A. INSTRUCTION. Before we can begin to tell others of the gospel, we need to have a clear idea ourselves. For the church, the gospel needs to offer so much more than an assumed understanding, but the fundamentals in which we draw from to counsel, equip, coach, teach, preach, and live out within our community.

B. EXERCISE #1

C. EXERCISE #2

At tables, have a discussion about what your text says to us about the gospel. Write a short, bullet point summary of the aspects of the gospel that your text points out. Keep in mind that this exercise isn't merely to be reminded of the important information that we need to get right in understanding the gospel, but also to remind us of the things we find most precious about the gospel news. Once the large group discussion is over, share at your tables one aspect that seems particularly moving or highly valued at this point in your life.

1. Romans 1: 16,17

2. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

3. Ephesians 1:3-10.

4. Colossians 2: 8-15.

5. Ephesians 2: 8,9

6. 1 Peter 1:3-5

II. THE PURITY OF THE GOSPEL.

A. INSTRUCTION 1: What does the Bible say about the purity of the gospel?

At times, something has been added to the gospel to distort its purity. As a result of what we have learned about the gospel, why is it so important to neither add or subtract to the gospel? (GALATIANS 1:6-9)



"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel--not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we on an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one preached to you, let him be accursed."

B. DISCUSSION.

1. At your tables, answer these questions. Be prepared to share your answers with the larger group.

1. According to Galatians 1:6-9, is it possible to preach another gospel? Why or why not?
2. What must be done with the gospel according to this text?
3. At your tables, come up with a list of common additions to the gospel that you have heard of or experienced yourself?

2. At your tables, on your sheets, come up with a list of possible additions or subtractions from the gospel that you are aware of or have personally experienced. Think through the why of your answers? What do you think motivates people to add or subtract these ideas?

III. THE FUNCTION OF THE GOSPEL.

A. INSTRUCTION.

While we may say that the gospel is, "the power of God for salvation," (Romans 1:16) 2:27, The reality is, it may actually function in a very different way for us.

B. DISCUSSION.

Q. What does this text tell you about the actual function that the good news is supposed to have in our lives?

Q. How is that different from your present thinking about the gospel?

Q. How has your understanding affected the way you function with the gospel?

a. Galatians 1:6-9

b. Philippians 1:15-18.

c. Colossians 1:1-9 & Colossians 2: 6,7.



- d. Romans 1:16-17
 - e. Romans 4: 1-4.
 - f. Romans 5:12-17
 - g. 1 Corinthians 1:18.
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V. REPENTANCE AND THE GOSPEL.

A. INSTRUCTION. In the 1500's, Martin Luther was shocked when he read Erasmus' translation of the Scripture from the original Greek language it had been written in. Instead of translating the proper word, 'repent', the Latin translators had instead written, 'do penance'. So, for instance, Mark 1:15 would read, "*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; do penance and believe in the gospel.*" This was an enormous translation mistake. It implied that through some activity of our own, we could show we were sorry enough to be forgiven of our sins. Repentance is an inner change, not an outer one. Jesus was very clear about this, when He began his ministry on earth. We can find that purpose in a number of places.

- a. Luke 4:42-44.
- b. Luke 5: 31,32
- c. Matthew 4: 17
- d. Mark 1: 14,15

B. EXERCISE.

In this exercise, we want to examine how important repentance is in understanding and believing in the gospel. Here is a long quote by Eugene Peterson. Read this quote and then discuss at your tables. Use these questions to form your discussion.

"The usual biblical word describing the 'no' we say to the world's lies and the 'yes' we say to God's truth is repentance. It is always and everywhere the first word in the Christian life. John the Baptist's preaching was, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 33: 2) . Jesus' first preaching was the same: "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17) Peter concluded his first sermon with "Repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). In the last book of the Bible the message to the seventh church is "be zealous and repent." Rev. 3:19).



“Repentance is not an emotion. It is not feeling sorry for your sins. It is a decision. *It is deciding that you have been wrong in supposing that you could manage your own life and be your own god; it is deciding that you were wrong in thinking that you had, or could get, the strength, education and training to make it on your own; it is deciding that you have been told a pack of lies about yourself, your neighbours, and your world. It is deciding that God in Jesus Christ is telling you the truth.* Repentance is a realization that God wants from you and what you want from God are not going to be admired by doing the same old things, thinking the same old thoughts. Repentance is a decision to follow Jesus Christ and become his pilgrim in the path of peace.”

- Eugene Peterson

“[Repentance] means unlearning all the self-conceit and self-will that we have been training ourselves into... It means killing part of yourself, under-going a kind of death.”

– C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

VI. CONCLUSION.

In your groups, discuss the biggest take away from session 1? Why? If you're comfortable, be prepared to share with the large group.