

# Nettleham Methodist Church - Cell Material

Week beginning: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2008

**Theme: Commands of Jesus 1**

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**To Get Us Started:** Have you ever been told what to do and had no choice in the matter? How do you cope with being told what to do? Does it depend on who's doing the telling and what you're being told to do maybe? (Discuss)

## **Word**

Firstly please read the 'Great Commission' in Matthew 28:16-20. These are the words of Jesus to His disciples, which includes us too! J. Hudson Taylor (the Founder of the China Inland Mission) said, "The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." I particularly want us to focus on the second part of what Jesus said in verse 20, "...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." We are true disciples of Jesus, if we are obedient to His commands. We might be familiar with the Ten Commandments as in Exodus 20, but what are the commands of Jesus? Well I've been on a bit of a discovery recently with this and I want to look into this in the future so that we can be fully equipped to serve. This is part of the NMC Vision and Values - as attached! So where can we find the commands of Jesus? The answer to that is found in the four Gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which together give us a 3- or 4-(!)D perspective!

Within the Gospels the order of the Jesus' commands is interesting, because although they are not necessarily in chronological order their theme is similar. Read the following passages, which record the first commands in each of the Gospels. See if you can discern what they are and discuss them together. Please don't rush this time, but allow the Holy Spirit to help you as you read and talk together:

- Matthew 4:13-23; Mark 1:14-22; Luke 4:43-10 & John 3:1-16

My research led me to the following conclusions:

- Matthew and Mark were similar with the call to repentance because the Kingdom is near.
- Luke apart from the command in 4:35(!) was in 5:4 - which is not unrelated to the first two or the one in John.
- John records Jesus first command (as far as I could tell) in 3:3

## **Worship/ Prayer**

Suggestion: Write these commands down and put them in your Bible on a separate piece of paper. When you read the New Testament and come across another command add it to your list - then make sure you do what He says!

Now spend some time focusing on the Lord Jesus. Look at Philippians 2:5-11 to help you. Maybe you could find a Worship CD which lifts up the wonderful name of Jesus to help you think about Him. To be obedient to Jesus is our true act of spiritual worship. It starts with heartfelt thanks for all that He has willingly done for us to make us right with God. It might be good to each say one thing that you are thankful for because of knowing Christ.

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## **Witness**

You can't look at the Great Commission without being challenged to be obedient to Jesus and be a witness for Him - hopefully not anyway! There are many ways we can be effective in our witness. Pray into the situations you and your cell members face on a daily basis and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to witness for Him in word and deed. Why not invite someone to come to Sunday worship with you or to your cell meeting? Or if you're a lady why not accompany a female colleague or friend to the next Women's Issues talk or if you're a man bring a male colleague or friend to the next breakfast. Please pray into these things and dare to ask the Holy Spirit for more opportunities. When we pray it is amazing how the Lord can open doors as we ask according to His will as per 1 Timothy 2:3.



**As part of the People of God we seek to establish and extend His Kingdom  
by...**

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ

Preparing God's People for serving

Building the Body of Christ

Seeking Christian maturity

### **Values**

**NMC** is a Cell Church. We provide small Christian Communities for all who worship with us within the life of the church. These small groups or 'cells' are the building blocks of this church. They are where we learn from each other about Jesus Christ who is the centre of our lives. The church and the 'cells' share a set of values:-

1. **Jesus at the centre** - We put a priority on knowing Jesus and growing in His way of living.
2. **Church is a community** - this site is not about a building or an organisation but a group of people seeking the Way of Jesus.
3. **Every member maturing** - we seek healing of past hurts and our growth in Christ.
4. **Everyone in ministry** - Ministry is not what one person 'up front' does - we seek to support and enable all in our community to discover their gifts and learn how to use them.
5. **Everyone involved in witness** - As Christians we believe our faith is worth sharing.