



Adding to the Gospel - Acts 15:1-21

1. In our text this week, Paul, in no uncertain terms, defended the Gospel against an attack on its integrity. Why is it important to understand and protect the Gospel? Has there ever been a time in your walk with Jesus where you misunderstood the Gospel?

2. The early Church was facing the issue that some of the converts to Christianity were forcing people to get circumcised to prove their salvation. As God's people, why do we tend to gravitate towards rules and trying to prove ourselves?

3. While Paul was traveling to Jerusalem to meet with the Church leadership, he wrote a letter to the Church in Galatia. Why was it necessary for Paul to write this letter? What can we glean from this letter regarding the Gospel and what someone must do to be saved?

4. Read James 2:14-26 How do we reconcile faith and works?

5. We all agree that we are saved by grace through faith and that adding to the Gospel is a big no-no. Yet, in subtle ways, we can all, without realizing it, add to the Gospel through our judgments of others, standards that we hold people to that Jesus didn't hold people to, or downright being legalistic towards our brothers and sisters in Christ. In what ways have you done this? How did you correct this?

6. Discuss this quote: "Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning."
- Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*

7. John 19:28-30 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, What did Jesus mean when he said, "it is finished?" How do we live in the finished work of Christ?