

MYSTIC RADICAL

Highways in the Heart | Discussion Notes

This week we're focusing on how our faith compels us to change our city, and how we can do that well. Spend 5 minutes hearing from people about what causes they are passionate about and any experience of serving the poor that have been particularly impactful for them.

Read through Psalm 84 together. This week we're focusing on verses 5-7 so you may want to re-read them afterwards.

- Does anything jump out that is different from the previous weeks when you have read this Psalm? Have you started to see the Psalm differently as we have gone through the series?

Sam explained that the 'radicals' go through the Valley of Baka (the Valley of tears) and dig wells to turn it from a desert into place of life. Likewise, we should be compelled by our faith to go and transform Bristol wherever we have influence.

- What would you like to see changed in Bristol?
- Where do you have influence to see change?

As we do this, it's important that we are both mystics and radicals, or in other words we have a deep personal faith but also reach out and use our faith to make a difference.

- Do you think you are more of a 'mystic' or a 'radical'?
- How do you think you can grow in the area that you are weaker?

Sam explained that the people in Psalm 84 are blessed because their strength is in God, and so "they go from strength to strength". Conversely, when we try to make a difference in the world we often rely on our strength and find ourselves burnt-out.

- Do you rely on God's strength when trying to serve others or are you more likely to do so out of your own strength?
- Have you had an experience of feeling burnt-out or just discouraged when trying to make a difference?
- How can we learn to rely on God's strength?

Sam explained that the final part of the Psalm teaches us that 'Blessed are those who trust in you [God]', and so being a mystic radical is a case of trusting God.

- How can you learn to trust God more in day-to-day life?

Spend some time praying for each other but also praying for situations that you as a Hub are passionate about. You may want to focus on praying for the partner organisations who were there on Sunday - TLG, inHope, Beloved, Mentor Me and North Bristol Foodbank.