

Northern Saints

episode four notes

Hild

Hild was a Northumbrian princess who gave up her wealth and founded an abbey that housed both men and women who put aside their material wealth to pursue a life devoted to worship and communal life. Out of the abbey that Hild established, a total of five others were sainted who had followed her example.

Living together is not easy! It certainly was not easy in 657AD! Eating together, worshipping together, serving together, cleaning and reading together.

How does this idea of communal life excite you or terrify you? What elements of it do you feel are achievable when not sharing a house?

The church is described in Acts chapter 2 as having this kind of life as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. What do you think the role of the Holy Spirit is in this kind of communal living?

How is this kind of life a testimony to the world about the gospel of Jesus?

Part of communal living is being prepared to be vulnerable, open and accountable to one another.

Accountability is the idea that there are people who know the uncomfortable truths about us so we no longer carry burdens alone. Is there anyone in your life that knows this level of truth about you? How would that change the quality of your relationship with God?

What are the challenges and benefits of this kind of relationship?

Jesus said in John 13:35, 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' How would this kind of relationship tell the world about Jesus and us being his disciples?

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Giving up wealth, starting a religious community of both men and women, living closely, preaching in a largely pagan world. All of these things were and still are incredibly counter-cultural.

What is the church's role in pushing back against cultural moves for the things of the Kingdom of God?

How could communities like ours give the world another way to live? What are the counter cultural markers we see in our own churches that are attractive to the world?

The North has often been a counter-cultural part of the UK in history. Moving against the grain, giving prophetic insight, fighting for the oppressed and marginalised. How can we recapture that courage and bravery in our churches as we are led by Jesus?

Spend the rest of your time together praying that God will move in all Christian communities, churches and worshipping groups up and down our country. May we be filled with boldness, courage and confidence that He who has called us will be faithful and we will see in our time a revival like never before.