

Growth Group Questions – 12/12/2021 – Jack Kapinga

Read Matthew 11:20-22, 13:41-42, 18:6-7, 21:12-13, 23:13,33.

1) These 5 readings from Matthew highlight Jesus' righteous anger. What's your response to passages such as this?

2) What do you notice about why Jesus is angry, who his anger is directed toward and what the consequences of his anger will be? Who is he not angry at? How does the intensity of his anger serve to highlight the wonder of his compassion?

Read Matthew 14:13-14, 15:32, 18:26-27, 20:32-34 and Luke 7:12-13.

3) The common word in these passages is "compassion" (translated "took pity" in Mt 18 and "his heart went out" in Lk 7). What do these verses tell us about this concept and about Jesus' heart?

Read Matthew 9:27-10:1.

4) What do you think it would have been like for Jesus to be constantly confronted by desperate and needy people? Would it have been easy to keep on having and showing compassion? How would you have reacted?

5) What does verse 36 reveal about the reason for Jesus' compassion? What does verse 35 tell us about the way he responded to their needs?

6) Why is it important for us to see that Jesus wasn't only "healing every disease and sickness" but also "teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom"?

7) To what degree do you feel that you know the deep compassion of Jesus in your own life, in your suffering and in your sin? What might be preventing you from truly experiencing it in a real way?

8) In 9:37-10:1 Jesus points out the overwhelming needs in the world, urges his disciples to pray for workers to go to meet those needs, and then sends them out in answer to their own prayers. Does the deep compassion of Jesus toward you overflow in your own compassion to the lost and needy? How can this grow?