

SUNDAY HANDOUT FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION - August 9th

The Compassion of the King (Matthew 14:1-21)

We've all experienced times of tragedy when all we want to do is retreat and be alone. In Matthew 14, immediately after one of Jesus' best friends has been murdered, he wants to be alone but the crowds are pressing in. The compassion he shows and provision he brings not only meet them where they are but reveal who he truly is.

1. Jesus' compassion amidst his grief

2. Jesus' provision that reveals who he is

QUESTIONS (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Herod's story isn't just meant to expose his heart—it invites us to examine our own. Where might we also be silencing God's conviction because we love our sin or fear people more than God? Are there any specific things that we want to turn from?
2. Why do you think Jesus' desire to be alone after John's death is important for us to see? What does it teach us about Jesus' humanity?
3. How does Jesus' response to the crowds challenge the way we often respond when we are hurting?
4. The sermon said, "Before we can imitate Jesus, we need to receive from Jesus." How does believing that Jesus has compassion for you change the way you show compassion to others?
5. What stops us from believing or receiving Christ's compassion for us personally? On the other hand, what has helped you grow in trusting that His compassion really is for you?
6. What are some ways you are tempted to live as if you have to provide for yourself instead of trusting Jesus to provide for you?
7. If Jesus has already provided our greatest need through the cross, how should that shape the way we trust him with our daily needs?