

Growth Group Questions

Compassion Sunday, March 17, 2024

Introduction

Our service this week breaks from the Lenten series as we welcome a pastor who directs WELS Christian Aid & Relief. Though our purpose as a church is to spread the gospel, why does humanitarian work also fit into our mission? If you have one, share a story of how helping someone with earthly needs gave you a chance to share your faith too.

Into the Word – Leviticus 19:9-16

1. The 10 Commandments describe the enduring moral will of God, meaning all people of all time are bound by them. The laws specifically given to Israel as a nation bind only them. Read Colossians 2:16-17 and explain why we are not bound to Israel's civil and ceremonial laws. Which kind are the laws in these verses?
2. Even though these laws bound only the Old Testament Israelites, describe similarities you see to the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20. What does that mean for our practicing these laws?
3. Even God's commands show his love! We see that clearly in verses 9 and 10. Who do these commands show love to?
4. Now, quickly go through the 10 Commandments and consider what each of those commandments lovingly protects.

Into the Word – 1 John 3:16-18

5. Describe as many ways as you can that Jesus' sacrifice is the true peak of "love."
6. Explain John's line of thinking in 17. Why would a lack of love in a person be evidence that they don't know God's love?

7. According to v. 18 what two elements MUST be a part of anything that is truly loving as God intended? Think of examples where one of the two is missing and the damage it can do.
8. Use these verses (v. 18 especially) to craft a definition of true, Christian love. Email that definition to rwolfe@salemlutheran.org

Into the Word – Mark 8:1-9

9. Identify reasons from the text that show us this is NOT the same miracle as the better-known Feeding of the 5000.
10. Even though this is a different miracle, identify similarities between the feeding of the 5000 and this feeding of the 4000.
11. It was Jesus' compassion that compelled Jesus to perform this miracle. What is the picture behind this Greek word? (I'm guessing from Pastor Sims' sermon theme that he will talk about this.)
12. What else did Jesus' compassion lead him to do?
13. What compassion ministries do we have at Salem, both for this in our membership and those outside it?
14. One of Salem's target goals is to partner with area non-profits to provide compassion service to our community. Do you know of outside organizations (not church-related) that are doing good work but looking for people to volunteer? If so, let me know by email!

Closing Prayer: Savior Jesus, you provide us with everything we need for eternity and for this life. Let your compassion to us move us to show compassion to others. Give us an opportunity this week to show your love in action and truth. Amen.