

Response Questions
June 13, 2021
Guest Speaker: Virgil Tanner

1. How does this presentation of Jesus as a man prone to compelling compassion sit with you? How is this imagination of him similar to the image you've held in your mind (consciously or not), and how is it different?
2. How does the idea that Jesus presents a God who is experiencing intense compassion when we sin, sit with you? If it seems like a stretch, check out what motivates the God character in Jesus's parable in Matthew 18:21-35.
3. In Matthew 18:21-35 we see again Jesus's notion that God's compassion is supposed to echo in our own compassion, especially toward people who don't deserve it. Take a moment and ask God to show you if perhaps there's anyone you're withholding compassion from; anyone with whom you're creating distance.
4. Similarly, ask God now how you respond to his compassion. Do you resist it? Feel uncomfortable with it? Perhaps lack some vocabulary for it? Ask him to shift your inner map of his heart to reflect how he actually feels about you.
5. Consider your emotional intelligence. How much could you afford to grow in noticing your own feelings, and even exploring them to see if bits of how God is speaking to you might be sown throughout. How does the idea of your emotions being part of how God might lead you sit with you?