



90 - Life of Jesus

Week nine - *“Compassion Ration”*

Matthew 14-15

Bottom line: Jesus dealt with frustration and grief and weariness, but his compassion remained intact and active.

1. What do you do, or what do you want to do, when something bad happens? How do you handle feeling overwhelmed?
2. Read Matthew 14:13 - what did Jesus do when he found out his cousin John had been beheaded?
3. Several times in the accounts of Jesus' life from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we're told that Jesus withdrew to a solitary place. What did he use that time and space for? Why is it important for us sometimes to withdraw?
4. Read Matthew 14:14-21
 - a. How did Jesus respond to the crowds who still found their way to him?
 - b. How do you think Jesus' personal grief related to his compassion for others?
5. Read Matthew 15
 - a. Jesus is seemingly, and understandably, getting frustrated. How did he respond to the crowds who still found their way to him?
 - b. How did Jesus' frustration play into his compassion?
 - c. Why did Jesus insist on feeding the crowd?
6. What's the big deal about sharing a meal? Has there been a time where a good meal made a big difference for you?
7. How can we turn our grief and frustration into an increased opportunity to care, and not an excuse to stop caring?