

Growth Group Questions

6th Sunday after Pentecost, July 9, 2023

Introduction

When was the last time you truly felt “at rest”? Share that last glimpse of heaven and discuss what it was that made it such a moment of blessing.

Into the Word – Exodus 33:12-23

1. This conversation between Moses and God happened after the golden calf incident we saw last week. Read verses 33:1-6 and discuss why Moses might have been looking for more validation and comfort from the Lord.
2. What is Moses really asking for in verses 11-12 and how does God give it in verses 14 & 17?
3. Moses’ request in v. 18 is bold, but God blesses it. This text stops before it, but God passes in front of Moses and explains his name in 34:5-7. Discuss why God limited what Moses saw but also what God showed him in revealing his name.

Into the Word – Romans 7:15-25a

4. Have you ever felt like Paul felt in verses 15-19? What do you do when you find yourself disappointed in yourself spiritually?
5. Luther wrote about both the freedom of the Christian and the bondage of the will. Thinking of these verses, in what sense is a Christian “free” and in what sense are we not free?

6. Too many Christians look for rest from their guilt in working harder, doing better, or *feeling* saved more. What source of rest does Paul cling to in verse 25 and how do we encourage others to look for the same source of peace?

Into the Word – Matthew 11:25-30

7. In the verses before this Jesus had just called out laments for the cities where he had done miracles but people didn’t repent. How does that help explain the truths Jesus describes as “hidden from the wise and revealed to children”?
8. When might Jesus’ invitation to rest in verses 28-30 be important to hear and important to share? In other words, what burdens pile up on people that Jesus can carry for us?
9. The “yoke” described here is the two-animal yoke used on oxen, not the single-bar yoke used by an individual to carry water or other heavy things. Jesus isn’t telling us to carry anything on our own, but rather to “get hitched to Jesus.” 😊 What’s the difference?
10. Memorize the reference of these verses (Matthew 11:28-30) so that you can have them the next time you have an opportunity to comfort someone in need. Next time you gather together see who remembers where these words of comfort can be found.

Closing Prayer

Savior of sinners, thank you for the good news of forgiveness and life that bring us hope and peace. Turn me away from my sinful nature’s influence and lead me to a life of service and faithfulness. Bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Amen.