



Welcome

Share stories of when you have been lukewarm or 'beige' about a distressing situation rather than being passionate or showing God's compassion. Has there been anything on the news recently where you have remained indifferent rather than compassionate? Do you agree that we need great events to entertain us, such as Children in Need, before we are moved to give to a worthy cause?

Word - Read Mark 3 vs1-6

Laura said that indifference is that we care about something else more, not that we don't care at all. Indifference takes hold when comfort outweighs compassion. In this passage, how do we see this in the attitude of the Pharisees?

Indifference affects:

What you see.

When two people walk into the same room, they will see different things. We can view people with compassion or indifference. Do you tend to see a problem or the person first?

Read Lev 21: 18-21. The man with the shrivelled hand was poor relationally, physically and spiritually. How are we rich in these 3 areas?

Your heart vs 3-6

The man's hand was deformed, withered and shrivelled and so were the hearts of the Pharisees. What moves you emotionally is often what you are most passionate about. When was the last time you got really upset or angry about something that wasn't self-centred?

What you have vs 4-6

Laura said that when you are in a position of privilege, your responsibility is to find the person in the room with the smallest voice and speak out on their behalf. Share examples of when compassion has been at personal cost.

Although the people we encounter day by day may be richer materially, we are richer spiritually. What can we offer to those around us this week?

Response

Take a moment to be quiet before God, to give Him time to challenge us on areas in our lives where we remain indifferent.

We all live in unique spheres of influence. Pray for opportunities to make a difference in the lives of those around us this Christmas.

Pray for the Christmas Production next weekend:

- that God would do more than we think or imagine, both in the room and out of it
- that guests would respond to Jesus and many would sign up to do the next Alpha course
- that God would strengthen and use all those who are involved in making it happen