

## Angry Jesus – Woes Part I

Suzy Bates

Matthew 23:13 - 22

May 27, 2018

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

#### **In Matthew 23, we are looking at the Woes to the Pharisees**

Jesus was never just angry; he has a deep sadness about the things that make him angry.

\*How do you see anger and grief intersect?

\*Why does love effect the way we get angry?

#### **Read and discuss**

Matthew 23:13 - 22 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. <sup>[14]</sup> <sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>15</sup> “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

<sup>16</sup> “Woe to you, blind guides! You say, ‘If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.’ <sup>17</sup> You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? <sup>18</sup> You also say, ‘If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.’ <sup>19</sup> You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? <sup>20</sup> Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. <sup>21</sup> And anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. <sup>22</sup> And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God’s throne and by the one who sits on it.

\*Who or what was Jesus angry about in the passage? Who or what was he not angry at?

\*What are the implications of Jesus’ anger for us?

#### **Jesus condemned the leaders for shutting the door of the kingdom of heaven**

He flings the doors of his kingdom wide open.

\*When have you experienced someone trying to slam the doors shut?

\*What are some ways you see Pulpit Rock or yourself unintentionally closing the doors? How are we opening the doors open wide?

#### **The Pharisees laid out a controlling pathway to God**

‘The church carries out the work that Jesus started and it does it in a way that is consistent with who Jesus was and how he went about his ministry.’ Alan Hirsch

\*What does this quote mean about how we should living out ministry?

## **Jesus called the Pharisees 'blind guides'**

They were missing the journey itself.

\*How do you find yourself caught up in focusing on the destination rather than the journey?

\*What are some ways we can intentionally enjoy the faith journey?

\*How can we use a grief-filled anger to impact the journey of others?