

# THE POINT OF IMPACT

## WEEK 2

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a small group or Bible class.

He was an outcast, a sinner, a person no one would want to hang out with—except Jesus. What did Jesus see in him and his friends? Could it be the same thing he sees in everyone—a person in desperate need of mercy, a person who can become new?

**1** Read **Matthew 9:9-13**. Why would getting close to someone like Matthew be seen as a bad Public Relations move? How did the Pharisees expect Jesus to respond?

**2** Jesus saw **MORE** in Matthew than his occupation, He saw a potential Kingdom difference-maker, and Jesus “friended” Matthew. Why is it so important to make friends of those whom we seek to make disciples? Who are some people you need to invite to dinner before inviting them to church?

**3** There are 3 surprises in this story:

1. Matthew is surprised that he was called.
2. The Pharisees are surprised that he was called.
3. Jesus is surprised that they would be surprised.

What do you find most surprising in this story?

**4** **Matthew 9:10-11** shows the Pharisees disapproval of Jesus’ favor toward Matthew. How does their attitude show a deep misunderstanding of God’s attitude towards sinners and the outcast? According to **Matthew 9:12-13**, what point were they missing?

**5** Read **Titus 3:4-5** and **Ephesians 2:4-5**. How does your theology of God impact the way you have mercy on others?

**6** This lesson reminded us that **MERCY IMPACTS** the way we hear scripture, the way we see people, and the way we follow Jesus. With that in mind, spend some time discussing these 3 questions:

1. How does knowing that God desires mercy help you better understand and apply scripture?
2. How does knowing that we all need God’s grace help you see people like Jesus sees people?
3. What do you see in Jesus that makes you want to follow him today?