



Everyone wrestles with God. We may not doubt if He exists, but we often wonder if He is right. Jesus got questioned a lot. Using the gospel of Mark, we will glean truth from times when Jesus was second-guessed that will help us with our own questions.

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 group.

1 Rick began by pointing out that we question God more times than we might want to admit. He went on to say, *"Most of our doubts don't focus on whether He is real, but on whether He is right."* How has that been true from your experience?

2 ASUMPTION: "It's good to avoid bad people." **Read Mark 2:13-16.** Why was Levi a surprising choice for Jesus to call? What does Jesus' calling of Levi show us about His character and His mission?

3 Rick pointed out that *"The Pharisees second-guessed Jesus because they put their understanding of and commitment to the scriptures first."* In what ways did scriptures like **Proverbs 12:26; 24:1; Psalm 1:1** create a tension for them? How is that tension real for us too (see **2 Corinthians 6:14, 1 Corinthians 15:33**) and how do you reconcile this tension? Follow up: How does wrestling with this tension help us better understand and apply the wisdom of Jesus' response in **Mark 2:17**?

4 ASSERTION: No one is "well." *Jesus is not afraid to use the word "sin" or sinner.* In what ways does this bother religious and unreligious people? Follow up: Why is it significant to notice that *Jesus is not dividing people; he is leveling them* (see **Romans 3:10, 23**)? What is one way you need Jesus as much as anyone else does?

5 ASSERTION: Anyone can be healed. *When Jesus saw sinners he didn't see problems; he saw patients... Heaven's response to sinners was not isolation, but incarnation.* Why is that distinction so crucial? What

do the words "Follow me" from Jesus imply? Follow up: **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.** How have you experienced the reality of living as a new creation because of Jesus?

6 ASSERTION: Everyone needs mercy most. *Instead of viewing people through a merit grid, try looking at people through a mercy grid.* **Read Matthew 9:13.** What stands out to you from the statement Matthew's account adds that Mark didn't include? Follow up: What are some reasons we should not try to diagnose anyone through a merit grid? How does a "merit mentality" isolate us from people who are more like us than we want to admit (see **Luke 18:9-14**)?

7 Rick concluded this message by reminding us that **"It's good to be patient with patients."** What is something that can help you do a better job of dealing with others through a "mercy lens rather than a merit lens?" Follow up: Who is one person in your life in need of God's mercy? How can you further your relationship with them this week?

