

5. What lessons can we draw from Jesus' response to the Pharisees in handling similar situations today?

6. Read Psalm 26:1-5. David declares his commitment to walk in integrity and avoid association with deceitful and wicked individuals. As followers of Jesus, how can we strike a balance between spending time with believers and reaching out to non-believers as Jesus did?

7. Jesus tells the Pharisees to do their homework when quoting from Hosea 6:6, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." Tim Keller describes mercy as love, service, and compassion to people who are not like you. In what ways can we show compassion and love to those who may feel like outcasts or sinners in our community?

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Meeting Jesus

"Follow Me"

Matthew 9:9-13

1. Follow Me is a call to decisive and intimate _____ with Jesus.

Psalm 26: ²⁻⁵ Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind, for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness. I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites. I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.

2. Follow Me is a call to _____.

Jesus was showing us that if you're going to give grace to people, and you're going to be redemptive, that's going to involve hanging out with other people who've got problems, maybe a different list of problems than _____.

"Instead, we should remember that while we can have only the tiniest impact on a large number of people, we can have a large impact on a small number of people. You can be a friend. You can extend yourself. You can move out of your comfort zone...we were not created for power or prosperity, but for community and fellowship." (David French [NYT](#))

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



3. Follow Me is a call for _____.

'Go do your _____!'

"Mercy is love, service, and compassion to people who are not like you" (Tim Keller)

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read Matthew 9:9-13. What does the fact that Matthew, a tax collector, immediately followed Jesus when called reveal about the transforming power of meeting Jesus and responding to his invitation?
3. Jesus calls Matthew to follow him, and they share a meal with friends of Matthew who are described as "tax collectors and sinners." What can we learn from the fact that Jesus sought out the company of sinners and tax collectors?
4. The Pharisees questioned Jesus for associating with tax collectors and sinners. How do we respond to questions from others when we choose to engage with people who may have different backgrounds or lifestyles?