



the point of IMPACT

Week 2 Devotionals...

The Impact of Mercy

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?

Monday, April 13

Read Reflect on the encounter Matthew had with Jesus, Matthew 9:9-13.

Review Tax collectors were not just considered cheaters, but traitors. But there was more to this guy than what he did for a living. Getting close to someone like Matthew was a bad PR move. As Jesus approached him, the crowd was expecting “How dare you?” not “Follow me.” But Jesus didn’t see a problem; he saw a patient. More than that, he saw a potential kingdom difference-maker.

Respond As you reflect on what Jesus saw in Matthew, allow that to impact how you approach people. Who in your life do you need to “friend” first before trying to disciple? Invite them to dinner before inviting them to church.

Tuesday, April 14

Read Matthew 9:11-13a

Review The Pharisees questioning of Jesus was consistent with their theology. They disassociated from all those they assumed God had dismissed. The problem was not what Jesus thought of Matthew but what his critics thought of God. They missed the point: God will have mercy.

Respond Fundamental to Christianity is our belief in the God-ness of Jesus. Just as crucial but less emphasized is the Jesus-ness of God. God is like Jesus, which means He is a God who delights in and operates out of a heart of mercy. Read Titus 3:4-5 and Ephesians 2:4-5. How

does your theology of God impact the way you have mercy on others? As you interact with people today operate out of a heart of mercy.

Wednesday, April 15

Read 1 Peter 1:3

Review Mercy impacts the way we hear scripture. You are reading the Bible wrong anytime you come up with an interpretation that writes some people out of the story. Do not miss the significance of Jesus challenging religious leaders to go reread their Bibles. It is possible to be an expert in scripture and a dunce in the Word.

Respond Read Matthew 12:1-14 today and wrestle with the tension of “rules vs. people”. Focus on how the phrase “I desire mercy” can help you better understand scripture. Keep this truth in front of you today.

Thursday, April 16

Read Romans 3:22

Review Mercy impacts the way we see people. We tend to view people based more on how we are different rather than how we are alike. Mercy calls us to realize “there is no difference” because nobody is that good; we are all sick and in need of mercy. So, don’t get offended by hypocrites at church, because sick people are supposed to be in a hospital. If there are no sinners in our church we need to shut the thing down. Be careful of being critical of the critical because “everyone needs compassion, a love that’s never failing.” We need mercy too.

Respond Take a look at Luke 18:9-14. Which of these 2 men do you relate to the most? What needs to change in your heart to help you see people like Jesus does? As you go through this day, reflect on this statement Rick made: “You and I need too much grace ourselves to ever treat anyone disgracefully.” Let God’s mercy fall on you today.

Friday, April 17

Read 1 Peter 2:10

Review Not everyone will like being like Christ. But when you’ve been impacted by mercy you change whether others like it or not. **Mercy impacts the way we follow Jesus.**

Respond We read this story and ask, “What did Jesus see in Matthew?” We should also ask, “What did Matthew see in Jesus?” Matthew saw someone who understood “despised and rejected.” He saw someone that cared more about the future than the past. He saw someone who was willing to be the solution instead of gripe about the problem. Write a note to Jesus describing what you see in him. How does that impact how you follow Jesus?