

# RELATIONSHIP RESCUE

## INTENTIONAL CARE WITH INTENTIONAL EFFORTS

Matthew 9:9 – 16 (ESV)

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### MESSAGE NOTES

*As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And he rose and followed Him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why does Your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when He heard it, He said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners." Then the disciples of John came to Him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. — Matthew 9:9 – 16 (ESV)*

#### • POINTS:

1. The **intentional efforts** of those who say they follow Jesus must truly have **intentional care**.
2. Our awareness to be intentional with our efforts & care will lead to relational impact.
3. Leading with intentional care will move us to intentional efforts. Both will increase our relational impact to those around us.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: When have you experienced a moment of trying to connect with people, but just felt you were always on the outside?
- Read Matthew 9:9 – 13. If we could see this play out like a scene in a movie, what would the tone of the scene be described as?
- If you were a disciple that was approached by one of the Pharisees, what do you think your reaction would be?
- Mercy is rescuing someone who is helpless and being crushed by their enemies, whether or not they did anything wrong. What effect does that have on how we are to give mercy to those around us?