

## MAIN POINT

*Jesus came for those who recognize their need for Him, and He called them to point other needy people to Him.*

## INTRODUCTION

What comes to mind when you think of the type of people who are involved in the church?

What do you think those outside of the church believe are the characteristics of those in the church?

For some, a misconception of the church is that it is only a place for good people. Other people believe that the church is a place for people who only pretend to be good, but their lives don't match their claims. In Luke 5, Jesus gave a surprising description of those whom He came to save. He made it clear that He did not come for those who already believed themselves to be good, nor those who only pretended to be good with no desire for real change. Jesus said that He came for those who recognized their need for Him and desired change as they followed Him. We must strive to live as His people, recognizing our great need for Him and seeking to lead other needy people to Him for salvation and transformation.

## DISCUSSION

### > READ LUKE 5:27-32.

What differences can you think of between Matthew and the religious leaders of his day? With which of the two parties do you have the most in common?

Matthew's entire sense of priorities shifted after his encounter with Jesus. How have you seen your priorities change as a result of Jesus' lordship in your life?

How would you explain what it means to be healthy in our own estimation? What about the Pharisees and scribes made them "healthy"? What would be a contemporary example?

No one in their day knew more about or memorized more Scripture than the Pharisees and scribes. They were experts. Why is their response to Matthew's banquet so jaded and critical? How do you guard your heart from a similar response?

Are there groups that you might classify as unreachable? How does remembering your own testimony eradicate such prejudice? Why is it important to do so?

## APPLICATION

If you don't know who the "tax collectors" of your town or culture may be, could you pray this week that the Holy Spirit will give you opportunities to reach others with the gospel?