



## Going Deeper

2. How were tax collectors viewed in Jesus' day (9:9)? Why would it have been shocking for Jesus to call *Matthew* as his disciple? Why do the Pharisees take offense at Jesus *eating* with "tax collectors and sinners" (9:10-11)? How does Jesus' mindset differ from that of the Pharisees? Do you ever find yourself thinking like the Pharisees did about sin and sinners? Can you think of any ways you're insulating yourself from the people God has called you to reach?
3. Why does Jesus think it's inappropriate for his disciples to fast/mourn (9:14-17)? What is Jesus saying about himself? How does Jesus' resuscitation of the young girl (9:23-26) relate to his statement in 9:15? Does Jesus think that the young girl is literally just sleeping (v.24)? If not, what is Jesus saying about death? Where do you need to fight for joy in your own life right now? How do Jesus' words and example encourage you?
4. How does Jesus demonstrate compassion in each of the four miracles in this passage? Why is it significant that Jesus heals people with a touch, rather than simply with a word (vv. 20-22, 25, 29; see esp. Leviticus 15:25-33; Numbers 19:11)? What would it look like for us to follow Jesus into forgotten places, and show compassion for overlooked people in our city/community?

### Application:

5. How can power/advantage/wealth insulate us from people in pain? Have you ever experienced this? How does Jesus leverage his authority/power? What's so unique about Jesus? Practically, what would it look like for you to imitate Jesus, and use your power to relieve suffering?
6. Why aren't the Pharisees merciful (see 9:12-13; 9:34)? What don't they realize about themselves? If we refuse to be merciful, what does that reveal about us? What have we forgotten about Jesus?
7. What's one thing you can apply this week from this passage?