

Message Notes

Neighboring Part 1: Mercy Rule

Matthew 9:9-13

→ I just don't get it...

**#1 It is _____ to neighbor someone whom you
_____ to understand.**

→ Levi, aka Matthew - **vs. 9-10**

#2 Jesus _____ you.

→ go and learn - **vs. 11-13**

→ sacrifice vs. mercy

#3 The Mercy Rule:

**Love is _____
before trust is _____.**

→ what does "Go and learn" require of you?

Group Questions

Neighboring Part 2: Mercy Rule

Matthew 9:9-13

1. What's something recently that made you either say out loud or think to yourself, "I just don't get it"?
2. Do you find it harder to be a neighbor to someone who is difficult for you to understand? Why or why not?
3. "It is impossible to love someone whom you refuse to understand." Why is that true?
4. **Read Matthew 9:9-10.** By picking Matthew as one of his disciples, Jesus was able to surround himself with tax collectors and other people who were labeled "sinners." If Jesus was in 21st century America, what kind of people do you think he would pick as disciples?

Do you associate with the people Jesus would associate with?
5. **Read Matthew 9:11-13.** Using the context, what does Jesus mean when he quotes the Old Testament scripture, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice"?
6. Share some reasons or examples why we might be hesitant to invest love in a person before they earn our trust.
7. Think of a person whom you've been refusing to understand. What's one step you could take this week towards building a bridge into their life?