

## DEEPER ROOTS

January 29 – February 2

### Planting Seeds: Read Matthew 9:9-13

The Pharisees took the law seriously. The Pharisees believed that when God gave us commandments, they were meant to be followed. They studied the law, they argued about how to interpret it, and then they lived a very strict and rigid understanding of the law. They were doing these things because they loved God. They thought this is what would please Him. But when God showed up in the flesh, He did not look like the expected Him to, and He did not act in the way that they would have predicted. The pharisees misunderstood righteousness. They thought righteousness was rules to keep. Jesus instead gave love and forgiveness away freely. This confused this Pharisees and offended them. If we are going to follow Jesus, His ways are going to confuse us at times. Jesus cares a lot more about how we treat people, than how precisely we follow some rules. Jesus went to the sick, because He knew that they needed healing. Jesus showed up and spent time with people that the Pharisees ignored. How has Jesus surprised you in your life? Why does it feel easier to follow rules than to love people outside of our social circles? Who are the people that Jesus wants you to spend time with?

### Digging Deep: Read Luke 19:1-10

Here is another story of Jesus inviting Himself to eat with a tax collector. Jesus made a regular habit of spending time with these people around the table. And at the end of this story, as Jesus is explaining Himself, Jesus teaches, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” This is His purpose. This is His mission. This is why Jesus came to earth. Jesus left heaven to bring salvation to those who are lost without Him. When we catch the heart of Jesus, we understand His passion, and we begin to live with the same purpose. Every day we have opportunities to direct people to the salvation that they have in Jesus. Do we have the desire to do that work? Do we have the perspective that it is important and necessary? Jesus was not distracted by the Pharisees and the self-righteous. He had an eye for the lost. What is your purpose? Do you have a heart of flesh, or the heart of Christ? How can you train yourself to live on mission for Jesus?

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 1.29-2.2.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email [Terence@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:Terence@pioneerdrive.org).