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- 1) Read Matthew 9:1-13. What is in this passage that surprises, encourages or frustrates you?
- 2) Why is Jesus' offer of forgiveness to the paralytic so frustrating? What do you think of God telling you your biggest problem is sin, not the circumstances in your life?
- 3) Read Hosea 6:1-7. What is mercy according to this passage? Put it in your own words. What does Jesus expect from his disciples?
- 4) Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy" (Matt. 5:7) and "Be merciful as your Heavenly Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36) How can you show mercy to those in your immediate relationships (family, co-workers, church)? Who can you have a meal with to show mercy? How is God teaching you that He desires mercy from you as Jesus' disciple?
- 5) Reflect on the quotes from the sermon:

"There is more mercy in Christ than there is sin in you." ~Richard Sibbes

"The church is a hospital for sinners that you never check out of." ~Nate Thompson

"The Reformation (in the 1500s) was a time when people went blind-staggering drunk because they had discovered, in the dusty basement of late medievalism, a whole cellarful of fifteen-hundred-year-old, 200-proof grace—of bottle after bottle of pure distillate of Scripture that would convince anyone that God saves us single-handed. Grace (mercy) was to be drunk neat: no water, no ice, and certainly no ginger ale; neither goodness, nor badness, nor the flowers that bloom in the spring of super-spirituality could be allowed to enter that case."

~Robert Capon

- 6) Take time to pray that God's mercy would soften our hearts and make us merciful.