

# ASTONISHED

Seeing & Hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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## Small Group Questions — The Week of October 25, 2020

**Sermon Overview:** As Jesus' ministry continues to attract and astonish the crowds, the radical nature of His kingdom is creating tension with the religious leaders of the day—the Pharisees. What He is saying and doing, along with those He surrounds himself with, is astonishing to the most religious—but in a very dark and negative way. Confused and confounded by His “blasphemous” message and “unholy” methods, the Pharisees interrogate His disciples. Jesus intercedes by offering the clearest explanation of who He is and who He is calling to Himself—not the righteous but sinners. Astonishing! This encounter offers the hope of the gospel as well as a strong warning to the self-righteous. Because we are all tempted to see ourselves through the lens of self-righteousness, we need to examine this passage and our hearts deeply, asking God to destroy in us all self-righteousness and pharisaical ways. Praise Jesus that He has come to call the sick—like us!

### Scripture Reading: Mark 2:14-17

1. Describe what you know about tax-collectors at the time of this account.
2. Why do you think Jesus would call someone like Levi (Matthew) to be one of His disciples?
3. What is a Pharisee?
4. Why did the Pharisees have such a difficult time with Jesus?
5. What are signs of Pharisaism that can be present in our lives?
6. How can we protect ourselves from self-righteousness?
7. If Jesus spent time dining with sinners, should we? What might this look like? Who would you invite?
8. How do the words, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners,” shape your life?