

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What stood out to you about the sermon?
2. Growing up, who were you told not to associate with? Why?

Read Luke 5:27-32

3. Why do you think Levi was so quick to follow Jesus?
4. Why do you think he threw a party for Jesus?
5. Why is it so difficult for religious people to accept that Jesus “eats with sinners?” Why do we resist eating with sinners ourselves?
6. How do you respond when you think about the fact that even while you were a sinner, Jesus was willing to associate with you?
7. Who are the “tax collectors” in your life, that you can associate with for the sake of the Gospel?

Coming Up:

Jan 24-30: Luke 6:17-26

Jan 31-Feb 6: Luke 6:37-45

Feb 7-13: Luke 8:1-15

Feb 14-20: Luke 8:40-56

Feb 21-27: Luke 9:18-26



THE GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO LUKE

Eats with Sinners

Luke in review:

- Jesus’ trials in the wilderness (4:1-13)
- Jesus’ ministry is characterized by spiritual and physical “release” from captivity (4:14-30)

Jesus doesn’t call us just to _____ in him, but to _____ him.

Luke 5:27-32

Tax Collectors:

1. Jews viewed Romans as foreign _____.
2. The Romans collected taxes by contracting with _____.
3. The tax collector took advantage of the system to get _____.
4. They (rightfully) had a bad _____.

Luke considered tax collectors among the poor and marginalized.

They were different because:

1. They had _____.
2. They were ostracized because they were _____.

Righteous people should not, under any circumstances, _____ with "sinners."

Levi's Response:

He "left everything." (This is code for _____.)

He threw a party for _____ and invited all his shady friends.

The Pharisees

Goal was to help people follow the _____.

Were _____ about the Torah...

...and updated it with their oral _____.

Traditions aren't necessarily anti-_____.

...but we can easily make them _____ markers.

They were _____ about their traditions.

Two foundational differences between Jesus and the Pharisees:

1. Their _____ and interpretations become more important than the Torah itself.
2. Their traditions focused on religious _____ and not on the ethical requirement to "_____ your neighbor as yourself."

God's love for the tax collectors moved Jesus _____ them.

The Pharisees saw them as an _____ to Jesus' purity and his reputation.

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

--Luke 5:31-32

Maintaining separation requires convenient _____.

We must put "us" in a different _____ than "them."

Who is spiritually healthy? The one who _____ to Jesus.

Application:

1. Come to grips with your own _____.
2. Remember that while you were a _____, Jesus was willing to associate with you.