

Jesus Christ Calls Sinners to Follow Him (Luke 5:27-32)

BIG IDEA: *Jesus Christ delights to call sinners to repentance.*

- 1. Jesus Christ sought out a tax collector named Levi.**
 - While his Hebrew name was *Levi*, he was also called **Matthew** by Jesus.
 - *Levi*, in the Old Testament, was Jacob's third son and Moses's grandfather. The Levites were set apart by God to be His priests as well as caretakers of the Tabernacle and Temple.
- 2. Jesus Christ commanded Levi to follow Him.**
 - *Jesus Christ's actions would have shocked any Jew!*
- 3. Levi immediately and wholeheartedly obeyed.**
- 4. Levi invited Jesus Christ to a celebration at his home.**
 - Levi invited tax collectors and other sinful individuals.
- 5. The religious leaders confronted Jesus Christ's disciples about His willingness to associate with "sinners."**
- 6. Jesus Christ declared that seeking out and calling sinners to repentance was His mission.**

Observations

- Luke records an **escalation** of unexpected activity:
 - It began with Jesus Christ approaching and calling Levi.
 - It rose as Levi "rose" up and followed after Jesus Christ.
 - It overflowed with Jesus Christ eating with Levi's guests.
 - It reached maximum intensity as Jesus Christ responded to the Pharisees' accusatory question.
- The **ongoing theme** (in Luke's Gospel "orderly account") of Jesus Christ interacting with sinners and reversing their condition is continued.

- Because Jesus Christ has "the authority to forgive sins," (5:17-26), He most definitely has the **divine authority and right** to find, call, accept and transform **sinners**.
- Jesus Christ makes it clear who will be received into God's Kingdom: all who **repent** of their sin and **follow** Him (4:43).
- Although Jesus Christ was surrounded by sinners, He always maintained His **holy righteousness** as the Son of God.

Application

1. No sin is too great for Jesus Christ to forgive.

2. Be amazed and filled with awe at God's undeserved mercy towards sinners.

- a. Genuinely **give thanks** to God for His mercy.
- b. Genuinely **worship God** for His mercy.
- c. Genuinely **love God and love others** because of God's mercy towards you (and other sinners).

3. Be Christlike when interacting with sinners.

- a. Be **humble**, since you too ~~were~~ are a sinner.
- b. Be **wise**, since you are not Jesus Christ.
- c. Be **gracious** and **speak God's truth in love** (*Ephesians 4:15*).