

Luke.

the certainty of Jesus Christ

LUKE 5.27-32 Family Discussion

Jesus Came For Sinners

INTRODUCTION

Tax collectors were not nice people. They were Jewish men who worked for the Roman government to collect taxes from their own people, the Jews. They often collected much more money than they were supposed to in order to make themselves rich. They cheated their own people, and they were hated for it. Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow him, and the Jewish religious leaders are not happy about it.

DISCUSSION

Who are the “tax collectors and sinners” in our society?

EXPLANATION

- Did people like tax collectors? Why or why not? *People hated them because they worked for the Roman government and stole money from their own people, the Jews.*
- What did Jesus command Levi to do, and how did Levi respond? *Jesus commanded Levi to follow him, and Levi left everything behind and followed Jesus.*
- What did Levi do for Jesus? *He made a great feast/party for Jesus.*
- Who was at the party? *A large company of tax collectors and sinners was at the party.*
- What did the Pharisees say about the party? *They didn't like it, and they asked Jesus' disciples why he would eat and drink with such people.*
- Why do you think the Pharisees felt that way?
- What do you think Jesus meant in verses 31–32?

APPLICATION

Jesus went from forgiving sins, to being the friend of sinners. The Pharisees didn't hang around with such “sinners and tax collectors.” But Jesus knew that they needed healing and forgiveness. He didn't wait for them to come to him; he went to them. He didn't just preach at them; he cared for them and helped to show them their need for forgiveness. He couldn't help the Pharisees because they didn't think they were sick. Are you a sinner who needs forgiveness, or do you think you are a good person who doesn't need forgiveness? Why or why not? Who are the people you know who need to know Jesus? How can you become a friend of “tax collectors and sinners”?

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 5:32 - "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."