

Luke

THE GOSPEL FOR THE LOST, THE LAST AND THE LEAST

Title: Levi – From Despised to Disciple

Text: Luke 5:27-32

INTRODUCTION:

Luke 5:27-32 – After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” 28 And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. 29 And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. 30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

THE STORY

Levi was a tax collector, and he was despised, socially isolated, and viewed as a traitor and sinner. Yet when Jesus saw Levi, He didn't see a lost cause. Jesus saw potential. He saw someone made in God's image who desperately needed the healing and forgiveness only He could provide. Jesus called Levi to follow Him. Levi responded by leaving everything and following Jesus. His life was radically redirected and almost immediately, Levi opened his home and invited his friends to meet Jesus.

I. See Potential When Others See Problems

Jesus saw what Levi could become rather than simply what Levi had been. The gospel reminds us never to write people off as “too far gone” for God to redeem.

- ASK: Do I tend to see people as problems to avoid or people who need the hope of Jesus?

II. Following Jesus Is Costly, But Worth It

Levi couldn't follow Jesus while continuing to serve his old master. Following Jesus meant repentance, surrender, and a new allegiance. This does not mean perfection; it means a disposition of submission to Jesus as Lord.

- ASK: Is there an area where I am trying to follow Jesus while still holding onto another master?

III. Be A Friend of Outcasts

Jesus intentionally built relationships with people far from God. He didn't compromise His holiness or approve of their sin, but He also didn't retreat into a “holy huddle.” We are called to engage the world, not withdraw from it.

- ASK: Who outside my normal Christian circle could I intentionally pursue as a friend?

IV. The Gospel Comes with a House Key

The gospel changes not only what we believe, but how we use what we have. Levi's home went from serving himself to becoming a platform for God's mission. Our homes, meals, schedules, money, apartments, and tables can all become tools for the gospel.

- ASK: How could I use my home, table, or resources to create opportunities for gospel relationships?



Life Group Questions:

- 1) Remember to open your life group with a time to “preach” to each other (a.k.a. proclaim how God has been at work in/through you this past week).
- 2) How did Jesus surprise you in tonight’s passage? What stood out to you about the way Jesus viewed Levi differently from the religious leaders? Who is someone you naturally tend to view more as a “problem” than as a person with potential for God to transform? What would it look like to begin seeing that person the way Jesus saw Levi?
- 3) What do you think repentance looks like in the everyday life of a Christian? Why is regular repentance an essential part of our ongoing spiritual journeys? Is there an area of your life where you know Jesus is calling you to change direction? What would a concrete step of repentance look like this week?
- 4) What are some things that can compete with Jesus for first place in a person’s life? What are some ways a young adult can practically try to “serve two masters” (i.e. following Jesus while still allowing something else to have ultimate authority)? Which competing “master” is most tempting for you?
- 5) Why is Christian community important? What are some good things that come from spending time with other believers? When can the benefits of Christian community become an excuse for avoiding relationships with people who don’t follow Jesus?
- 6) What does it practically look like to build genuine friendships with non-Christians without compromising your convictions? Where do you think Christians most commonly get this balance wrong?
- 7) If you actually lived out all four principles from Levi’s story over the next month, what would change about your life?
 - See potential when others see problems: _____
 - Follow Jesus at greater cost: _____
 - Be a friend of outcasts: _____
 - Use what I have for gospel mission: _____
- 8) Close by sharing prayer requests / praying as a group.

