

FUSED

Fellowship

Understanding

Service

Evangelism

Devotion

Ice Breaker

Tell about a time that you ever quit something. It could be for good reasons or for bad reasons, but what have you quit in your life? Why did you quit?

February 9, 2020

How to Fit Jesus Into Your Life?

FUSED in Luke

Opening Prayer

Have each person share a praise from their past week. Give thanks!

Discussion

1. When you think about the idea of quitting something, often there's something of a stigma that emerges. Nobody wants to be labelled a quitter unless they quit something obviously bad for them (smoking, drinking, etc.) Do you think it is ever okay to quit something that is good? Why or why not?
2. **Read Luke 5:27-38 together as a group.** In this text, we are introduced to Levi, who is a tax collector, which means he would not be held in high esteem by the community he lived in. Just like last week, Levi "left everything and followed" Jesus. And the first thing Levi does is throw a party for Jesus and his closest friends. Why do you think Levi does this? What do you think Levi's reaction could mean for Christians?
3. The main focus of this text is not on Levi, however, but on the Pharisees who are opposed to all the celebrating that is going on, likely because this was a day that tradition demanded everybody be fasting. What role does tradition play in our lives today? Is it always good? Is it always bad? Explain your thinking.
4. For the Pharisees (experts in the Law), tradition is vitally important, yet when they confront Jesus with the need to obey tradition, Jesus pushes back. Focus on verses 34-35, specifically. Does Jesus push back because he rejects tradition? What do you think Jesus is saying to these men and why?
5. The climax for this text happens in verses 36-38 where Jesus tells two parables. Read verses 36-38 again. Josh summed up these parables this way: 1) Don't destroy the new to fix what is old, and 2) Don't combine the new with the old if it ruins both. Can you think of other times in our lives where we do one or both of these things?
 - a. In telling these parables, Jesus clearly sees himself as the "new wine" and the traditions of the Pharisees as the "old wineskins." It's a call from Jesus for the Pharisees to mimic Levi, to quit an old way of life and leave everything for Jesus. For Jesus, fasting is not the issue, but a matter of the heart. What do you think is in the Pharisees hearts that Jesus is rejecting?
6. Following Jesus isn't always about leaving behind old sin. Sometimes it's about leaving behind old traditions and old parts of ourselves that are good, but hinder us from living for Jesus. Josh worded it this way: **May I No Longer Be, Because Christ Lives in Me! Read Luke 9:61-62** and ask yourself: What parts of your past could be hindering your leaving everything for Jesus?

Closing Prayer

As you close, consider authentically the stubbornness of your heart. Is Jesus calling you to something that you are refusing to listen to? And if so, what's holding you back? Pray for the freedom and courage to overcome!