

J-Ville Pres. May, 3 2026
Eating With Bad People (student notes)
Luke 5:27-32

- I. **Jesus astonished everybody with his actions and his teaching. Luke 18:9-14. The Pharisee and the tax collector.**
- A. This parable turns religious thinking on its ear. Inside out.
 - 1. *The tax collector is justified and the Pharisee is NOT! This is the absolute opposite expectation in that culture.*
 - B. A parable no doubt repeated many times, and every time one of Jesus' closest friends would wonder...Matthew Levi, the *Tax Collector*.
 - C. **Fun Fact:** *Nobody called Matthew Levi "Saint Matthew" in those days....*
 - 1. *The honorific title "Saint" applied to individuals appears in the Middle Ages.*
 - 2. *All Christians are called saints in the New Testament.*
- II. **Context: Ever since being baptized (Matt.3:13-17), receiving the anointing of the Spirit, and returning from defeating Satan in the desert, Jesus has been demonstrating that he has the *personal authority of God*.**
- A. He declares it at his home synagogue in Nazareth. 4:14-30
 - 1. By quoting Isa.61:1-2 and *applying it to himself!*
 - 2. If they connect the dots, they see he is claiming to be Messiah.
 - 3. *But they reject him...a precursor to Israel's eventual rejection.*
 - B. He demonstrates it by throwing demons out. 4:31-37 (on a Sabbath)
 - 1. They know who he is and he won't let them talk (34-35)
 - C. He teaches and heals everybody he comes into contact with. 4:38-44
 - 1. Healing and teaching all day every day!
 - 2. *Nobody ever stayed sick or died in his presence...except him...*
 - a) *Raised three from the dead (Jairus' daughter; Widow's son at Nain, Lazarus)*
 - b) *He had to be gone away to let Lazarus die (Jn.11)*
 - D. He begins to call specific disciples. Peter. 5:1-11
 - 1. Indicating a plan to use certain men in a unique way.
 - 2. *Apostles would become the Lord's voice in preaching and writing.*
 - E. He heals a leper—by touching him! 5:12-16
 - 1. Nobody touched lepers, (Lev.5:3)
 - 2. Because ceremonial uncleanness was "contagious" in the Torah.
 - 3. *Why was Jesus not afraid to touch a leper...?*
 - F. He personally forgives a paralytic man's sins—and then heals him completely and instantly!!! 5:17-26
 - 1. Forgiveness is the most important issue here. Only God does this!
 - 2. No wonder people were amazed (26)
- III. **Now he blows the religious minds by deliberately calling a tax collector. Luke 5:27-31**
- A. **This will be the Apostle Mathew!** (Levi =Matthew. Matt.9:9; Mk.2:13)
 - 1. The Lord initiates this new relationship. *It begins with a call....*
 - a) *My sheep hear my voice...Jn.10:27-30*
 - b) *It is a personal relationship, not just an institutional ritual. Jn.1:12-13*
 - 2. The disciple responds by trusting the Lord...Following
 - a) *...and they follow me...This is repentance*
 - b) **Repentance** = Turning around and trusting the Lord.
 - (1) *Repentance/Faith "... a fundamental change in thinking that permanently and radically alters the way things used to be." (Quoted in David E. Garland, *Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, Luke* [Zondervan 2011] p.257)*
 - 3. The "following" is produced by the trust/faith, not the other way around.
 - a) *The internal trust, receiving him. Jn.1:12-13*

IV. When the Lord called this tax collector, He was reminding us that...

- A. He only saves real sinners, but he saves us sovereignly, completely, eternally.
 - 1. The Lord is not freaked out by your sin, and he is not afraid of ceremonial uncleanness. Touches lepers, corpses, bleeding people...
 - 2. **Isa.6:5-7.** This has touched your lips and your guilt is taken away, sins atoned for...
 - a) Thoughts. Rom.2:16; Heb.4:12; Matt.5:21-48
 - b) Words. Matt.12:36-37; Lk.12:1-3
 - c) Deeds. Jn.5:25-29; Rev.20:13
 - 3. *You cannot be partially or temporarily forgiven (1 Jn.1:8-2:2)*
- B. Because real sinners are painfully aware of our sin, but we live as forgiven people forever. Isa 6
 - 1. Like the tax collector in Lk 18, they have despaired of saving themselves and throw themselves on the Lord's mercy—and they are justified by faith alone!
 - 2. They do not forget either their sin or their total forgiveness. (1 Tim.1:15)
 - a) Thoughts, Words, Deeds all infected with sin, all completely cleansed and washed. (1 Cor.6:11. Washed, sanctified, justified...)
 - 3. *This produces courage and humility.*
- C. Therefore—We do not back into heaven by avoiding uncleanness, *we walk in freely following Jesus, who has the keys to death and hades.*
 - 1. Rev.1:17-18. I was dead and am alive forevermore and I have the keys to death and hades.
 - 2. Pharisees thought that impurity was contagious, transferable. So, they moved forward spiritually by backing away from what they saw as evil. Backing into heaven so to speak.
 - 3. Jesus' holiness overpowers all impurity and is itself transferable. Where sin abounds, grace super-abounds (Rom.5:20)

V. So, we are justified sinners gathering at the Lord's table...Come to the table...

- A. *He shares his table with us...justified sinners rescued by his life, death, resurrection*