

Conflict Over Jesus' Association with Tax Collectors and Sinners

Scripture: **Luke 5:27-32**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, August 13, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

Jesus sees the tax collector, Levi, in his place of work and says, "Follow me." The account says that Levi left everything, rose, and followed Jesus. The next scene is a party thrown to honor Jesus at Levi's house which included tax collectors, others (sinners), the disciples, and Jesus. Even though this was an awkward party hosted by bad guys, Jesus is there for a purpose. To demonstrate God's love and mercy, to call sinners to repent. Christ's calling is not just a call to become his disciple but a call to repentance from sin. The Pharisees show up and grumble that Jesus is eating and drinking with these despised people of the day and Jesus responds by saying that He has come to call sinners to repentance. **Jesus only calls sinners to follow Him.**

Corroborating Texts

Matthew 9:9-13; Matthew 11:19, Mark 2:14-17; Luke 15:2; Romans 3; Romans 5:8;
1 Timothy 1:15

Discussion Questions

1. With the events that happened this past week in Charlottesville how are you processing? (In shock, affected, unaffected, angry, etc.)
2. Think about the men Jesus chose to be his disciples. (Uneducated fishermen, tax collectors, a zealot) What was Jesus thinking in calling these types of people? Although these men would not likely be our first choice, why do you think Jesus chose these men?
3. Jesus says that he has only come for those who are sick and to call sinners to repentance. What about the righteous? [they don't exist—see Romans 3. No one is good; all are sinners]
4. How do you view the bad guys, your enemies? (be it liberals, conservatives, alt-right, drug dealers, murderers, etc) Do you talk with them? If not, why not? Would you share Christ with them? Do you pray for them?
5. We should never despair the salvation of someone we know, as long as they live. The Jesus who called Levi never changes. With all of this in mind. Who is the James Alex Fields Jr. in your life right now? The person who you think is "too bad." The person about whom you grumble? What are some steps you should take in sharing the gospel with them?
6. Converted souls long for the conversion of others. If we don't want people to believe then what are we even doing?