



Today's Message

Date: May 3, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Jesus, The Friend of Sinner*

Text: Luke 5:27–32 (ESV)

²⁷ 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.”

Introduction: Luke began chapter two with the call of the most famous of the apostles, Simon Peter (5:1-11). Immediately following Peter's call, Luke demonstrated the unusual nature of Jesus' ministry: he touched society's most pitiful outcast (5:12-16) and forgave the sins of an utterly helpless man (5:17-26). Significantly, the very next event in Jesus' life that Luke highlights is the call of another apostle. This time, he chooses a spiritual outcast, a notorious sinner: a tax collector. From today's text we consider that:

I. The gospel calls tax collectors and (other sinners) to follow Jesus. 27-28

A. Jesus called Levi, a notorious sinner. 27

B. Levi responded with immediate commitment. 28

II. The gospel tears down all social barriers. 29

A. Jesus had intimate association with sinners.

B. Jesus *initiated* association with sinners.

III. The gospel offends those who trust themselves. 30

A. The Pharisees were offended by Jesus' choice of friends.

B. The Pharisees believed themselves worthy of Jesus' friendship.

IV. The gospel requires you to see yourself as you really are. 31-32

A. Jesus is not for those who *think* they are righteous.

B. Jesus is for those who *know* they are sinners.

Today's take-home truth: The gospel calls the worst kind of people to follow Jesus; what kind of person are you?