


Where the story gets dramatic, daring... identity healing

③ The healing of your identity is being offered
But you must swallow the pill

1. JESUS IS THE HEALING Θ

 Promised in Is 61, the healing King 5:38-44
"hands of the true king are the hands of a healer,"
Holy Θ before who Peter sees sinfulness, who touches the
leper + heals him + sends him to the priest, who
forgives the sin of the paralytic + heals his body,
Who is the Bridegroom and Old Wine fulfilling Θ 's
ancient purposes! And who is enlarging the
boundaries of Table Fellowship w. Θ



Pill? Every person is called to follow Him, to
make Jesus their deep, primary identity, to
own their sickness + repent + receive His
healing. The only thing that will exclude you
from his embrace is not owning your sickness +
receiving His healing.

2. Xtian = healed identity *Yolf, Galatians 2:20*
Luke models the identity of hospitality,
inviting people into friendship, community,
relationship w. Θ Redeemer in 2017

Why Xtians so inhospitable? Exclusionary vs. Embrace?
Great Θ = Forgetting their sickness + healing! You?

GIVING

2016 offerings were very close to our target budget. Thank you for giving so cheerfully and faithfully! We will report the total offering collected for 2016 in the next couple weeks.

We will begin reporting 2017 offerings next week in the worship guide.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the Pharisees response to Jesus' Table Fellowship with Levi and his friends reveal the problem of the human condition being that of building identities that exclude others?
2. How does (1) Jesus' call to Levi and (2) rebuke of the Pharisees show that the solution is not just affirming all identities or exalting religious identities but accepting that we are sinners who need the healing grace of Jesus and who must center our entire lives on Jesus.
3. Self-Assessment: Has Jesus Christ become your identity (i.e. you are a sinner who needs healing, Christ as your Great Physician)? Has this led you to an identity of embrace like Jesus who ate with Tax Collectors and challenged Pharisees?

JESUS TABLE FELLOWSHIP ▶ "follow me"

= Share God's Hospitality... identity

Miroslav Volf Exclusion + Embrace

① Pay attention to the Story

☰☰ Key to unlock 5:27-32 is in the Context of 4+5

Isaiah 61 + announcement of His ministry (4:14-30), Jesus heals many + preaches Kingdom of God (4:38-42), calls Peter as disciple + Peter's confession of sinfulness (5:1-11), Jesus heals a leper + tells him to show himself to the priest (5:12-16), Jesus heals a paralytic of his sins and his paralysis (5:17-26), Jesus calls Levi and teaches on fasting + old wine... dive in

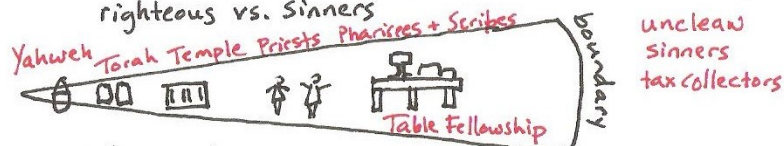
☑ Levi + Tax Collectors

☑ Jesus' Call = follow me

☑ Levi's response... leaving everything

☑ Levi's great feast = friendship, community formed around Jesus

☑ Pharisees "moral grumbling" based on meals as identity ▶ boundaries of clean vs. unclean, of righteous vs. sinners



☑ Jesus' Answer

➡➡➡ Xtian/Church ▶ This is where Jesus is taking you/us!

② Presents us w. our contemporary sickness

Sickness? Isn't it sin? Yes but dig deeper, sin as = Exclusionary Identities

The moment the identities that we affirm and cherish (sexual, cultural, racial, family, tribe, ideology, religion...) become our deep, primary identity they take on an exclusionary force, create a moral high ground

☑ Religious identities Pharisees → Today

↪ That's why I'm anti-religion, problem of intolerance

☑ Secular/Irreligious identities

Ideological "high ground" of cherished pluralism

"Moral Grumbling"... Shame, social outcasts today

Profound problem w. cherishing deep identity pluralism =

1. W/o a common, shared, deep/primary identity all of our identities will inevitably exclude, be in chaos + create social meltdown

2. It misses Jesus = Who had a deep, primary identity in Yahweh, Torah, Temple, Priests... but who showed the most radical of hospitality

▶ Point? There might be an identity that creates embrace vs. exclusion!

♥ Sickness of your ♥... Pharisees so close but so far away! Open mind to possibility of sickness Your moral grumbling/high ground/guest book

John Sanford Story