

LUKE 5:27-32

Repentance and Belief

Memory Verse

"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:31-32

Real-life Problems

Release of control—We all have a need to give over control to God. Repentance shows us how to release control and give it to God.

The Good News

Christ extends healing and grace to all who repent and believe in Him.

Gospel Definition

God's grace and **redemption** for sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Redemption involves a transfer from one realm or one way of life to another. When we repent and believe in Christ, we transition from trusting in ourselves and clinging to control, to handing over control of our lives to Christ, trusting in Him.

I. Introduction

What's going on?

REMIND:

In the previous lesson we learned about how we need a mediator to go before a holy God. Jesus serves as the mediator and advocate for us.

TODAY WE'LL LEARN:

- 1) In our natural state, we are trying to control our lives and are trusting in ourselves.
- 2) God calls us first to repent, which involves turning away from controlling our own lives and giving control to Jesus through the redemption of Christ.
- 3) We are also called to trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord, not try to serve this role ourselves any longer.

Read

Read **Luke 5:27-32** on your own.

II. Questions

A. WHAT?

1) Who started the conversation with Levi? In Luke 5:27, do you think Jesus was looking for Levi or was Levi looking for Jesus?

2) Where was Levi sitting when Jesus called him? What does that tell us about his work?

3) In verse 28, what did Jesus call Levi to do? What was Levi's response?

4) Where did Jesus go with Levi after He called him (v. 29)? Who else was there? What was the reputation of this crowd (v. 30)?

5) Who grumbled at Jesus, the disciples, and the tax collectors? What did they refer to this group as (v. 30)?

6) What was Jesus' response to the Pharisees (vv. 31-32)?

B. SO WHAT?

1) What do we know about the reputation of tax collectors? What does it mean for you and me that Jesus pursued and called people like them?

2) In verse 28, it was Levi who left "everything" and followed Jesus. At that moment, who had control of Levi's life? Before that moment, in whom was Levi trusting?

3) Levi's moment of leaving everything and following Jesus is a model of repentance and belief. If Levi's act of leaving everything was the model, how would you define repentance? If it is a model of belief, then how would you define belief?

4) When Levi left everything and followed Jesus, Luke says he "rose up." He probably means that he physically rose up. At a spiritual level, how did Levi "rise up"? What does this tell us about the value of repentance?

5) After leaving the tax booth, Jesus went to Levi's house for a party. What does that tell us about the kind of relationship that Levi entered into? What does that tell us about the life that we enter into when we repent and believe in Christ?

C. NOW WHAT?

1) We have talked about "capital 'R'" repentance in the story of Levi, which involves the first time we repent and turn to Christ as our Savior and God. Every day we practice "lower case 'r'" repentance. What does it mean to repent every day? How do you practically repent?

2) What are areas of your life in which you tend to cling to control? Why do you think you tend to cling to control in each of those areas?

3) In Luke 5, the Pharisees criticized Jesus for dining with "sinners," people who were thought to be unworthy of friendship. Who are some people like this in your life or world that you can offer friendship to?

III. Closing

GOSPEL BUILDING BLOCKS:

Building Block #6: To receive the gospel, God calls us to repent from being our own savior and god and to instead trust in Jesus to be both for us.

Building Block #5: As sinners, we need a mediator between a holy God and us. Jesus is our mediator who advocates on our behalf before the Father.

Building Block #4: To satisfy God's justice for our sins, Jesus served as a substitute. He took the punishment for our sins on the cross in our place.

Building Block #3: Every person, Christian and non-Christian alike, must answer to God for their lives. Non-believers answer for their sin at Judgment Day; Jesus answered for believers' sins on the cross, saving us from His judgment. Christians still go before the judgment seat of Christ to present their lives as an offering to God as an act of loving worship.

Building Block #2: Mankind has broken that relationship through sin and thereby created separation from God.

Building Block #1: A holy, loving God made us to live in blessed relationship with Him.

