

Jesus...In the Gospel of Luke

Reaching Out To The Lost!

Luke 5:27-32

Pastor Mel Svendsen
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Bottom Line:

Jesus calls unlikely people to Himself. Matthew is an example of that. Jesus shows His heart for the lost and highlights His role as a spiritual physician, focusing on His main purpose: to turn lives around and heal our relationship with God!

Intro: Don't be defeated by the criticism of unbelievers! Criticism will come!

The Pharisees demonstrate that:

- A person can be close to religion and far from God.
- A person can know Bible verses and not know Christ.
- A person can attend church and never repent.
- A person can be morally respectable and still be spiritually lost.

1. God can move powerfully in the lives of the most "unlikely" people! Luke 5:27-28

Important Truth:

Jesus looks beyond the public reputation of this tax collector and saw the person!

"And leaving everything, he rose & followed him." v. 28

Levi (Matthew) didn't merely admire Jesus.

He followed Jesus.

He didn't simply agree with Jesus.

He followed Jesus.

He didn't simply listen to Jesus.

He followed Jesus

Important Truth:

Following Jesus means leaving something or some things behind!

2. Jesus consistently reaches out to those whom the world rejects! Luke 5:29-30

Levi encounters Jesus and wants his friends to meet Jesus:

Levi sees an opportunity for redemption.

The Pharisees see contamination.

Levi sees people who need Jesus.

The Pharisees see people who need to be avoided.

Important Truth:

The Gospel moves us toward the lost, not away from them.

3. The most effective evangelism meets the lost where they are at! Luke 5:30-32

Pride says: "I am better than them."

Grace says: "I am saved by Christ."

Pride says: "Why don't they get their lives together?"

Grace says: "How can I help them encounter Jesus?"

Now what?

1. Stop limiting the ability of God to work in the heartest of hearts and the most "unlikely" of people
2. Start to find ways to reach out to unbelievers where they "are at"!
3. See your role with unbelievers as being a "Physician's assistant" to the great Physician!