

The Gospel of Luke: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus!

1. Levi, Follow Me

A. Levi – Matthew = tax collector **sitting** in a tax booth

1. A social outcast, hated by the Jews, a traitor to his country, working for Rome - Gentiles
2. Herod Antipas – sold tax franchises to highest bidder; got thieves and crooks, liars
3. Rome had taxes, anything above that, these guys could keep; couldn't pay, they would give loans out at 50% or higher, didn't pay that, send out thugs to break your legs etc.
4. Matthew was worst of the worst because he sat face to face w/ Jews in tax booth, brutal!
5. Matthew had heard of Jesus, healer, who spoke against sin AND of God's forgiveness

B. Follow

1. Jesus called the **humble** and broken over their sin – *Matt5:3,4,6*

*Jesus sought out Matthew; Matthew wasn't seeking Jesus; made him His own!

2. When Jesus calls, Levi/Matthew leaves his job, **security**, to follow Jesus

*He left his job, never to return, and embraced Jesus' mission – *Lk5:28-32*

3. Christians follow Christ and take on His **mission** for our own lives, for we **GLADLY** give up our lives! (Pearl of great price – Is Jesus our TREASURE?!!!)

****Why would we do this gladly? **Because of WHO we follow – Jesus Christ!***

C. Me – Jesus, the Messiah

1. God in the flesh – *Col 1:16,17; 2:9; Ex3:1-4; 2Kings19:34-35; Rev19:11-16,19-21 (turn to)*

2. His mission: **Return**, to destroy all evil - **Lk4:19(Is61:2) favorable year and day of vengeance*

***His 1st Coming** – *salvation; Jn3:16-17; 19:10; *Now is the day of Salvation!!! *He is the friend of sinners!!!*

**He calls the lowly Matthew to follow Him!!!*

2. Responding to the Divine Call from Christ

A. Have you decided to follow Jesus?

1. The gate is **Narrow** – *Matt7:13-14*

**House on the Rock - Lk6:46-49*

2. Oil and **Water** don't mix (New and Old wineskins) **Luke5:36-38*

3. Divine truth assaults culture: *Luke 6:1-11; Is1:11-20*

***Rage** – a rage out of madness; lost their minds in rage – they want Him dead

***They reject saving truth and embrace damning error...

4. Good is evil and **Evil** is Good – Jesus followers speak the truth in love!

*Sexual immorality, abortion... do we support or not? What is loving?

*Jesus preached the gospel and called people **OUT** of their sin!

*Is Jesus Lord of the Church, OR is the Gov't ?

B. Christ plus nothing...

1. Biblical salvation and true Christianity is Christ plus **Nothing!** Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone! Anything added or mixed is false faith as James said.

2. Why did those Jesus saved always respond with telling everyone about Him and following Him even unto death?!!! (*Is6:1-8; ***Luke7:40-48; 2Cor5:14-15*)

3. *Acts 1:8* and the 12 Apostles...they loved Christ with all their beings unto death!!!