

Luke 5 Ready for Change

Launch into the Deep

Jesus is coming for His Bride. Are we changing for the occasion?

IV. Eating and Drinking with Sinners?

27 After these things...

- **Jesus calls Whosoever:** Fishermen/Untouchables

Those Ready for Change

27b... He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office.

- **Jesus Went out/saw...**
 1. Jesus **sought out** sinners
 2. Holy **Spirit seeks** out sinners...

Matthew 22:9 ...go into the highways, and **as many as you find, invite to the wedding.** So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both **bad and good.**

- **Tax Collectors in Israel**
 1. **AKA Publicans:** Jews hired by Rome/Collect taxes for Rome
 2. **Hated** by fellow Jews for working for Rome/taking more than required

Luke 3:12 [J the B] Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" 13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

- Was Levi at John's Baptism now waiting for Savior?

Levi is a sinner.

- **Sin** Missing the mark
- **Transgression** Knowingly disobeying God
- **Presumption** Maliciously defying God

Romans 3:23 ... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Levi is a sinner...Nick is a sinner. We all are sinners.

1 Timothy 1:15 [Good News?] This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus **came into the world to save sinners...**

- **Levi is a sinner.** Jesus went out to Levi...

27c... And Jesus said to him, "**Follow Me.**" 28 So he **left all, rose up, and followed Him.**

- **Left all** ...pushed chair away from desk
- **Rose up** ...stood up at his desk/assessed situation

- **Followed Jesus** ...walked away from desk **never looked back**

Levi had absolutely no idea what came next...

I don't know what the future may hold...but I [do] know who holds the future. [Abernathy]

Hebrews 11:8 By faith **Abraham obeyed** when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, **not knowing where he was going.**

Idol worshiper Abe knew it was time for a Change

New Adventure: Willingly free-falling into the hands of the Great Potter...

Ephesians 4:23 ...**be renewed** in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the **new man** which was created according to God, in **true righteousness and holiness.**

- **Changed for the better.** Changed for the Wedding.

NOT BY TRYING HARDER but by **Yielding to The Holy Spirit's Sanctifying Power**
Not Rehabilitated but Regenerated. Made Brand New by the Spirit of God

- Left all/Rose up/Followed Jesus

29 Then Levi gave Jesus a **great feast in his own house.** And there were a **great number of tax collectors** and others who sat down with them. 30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, sayin "**Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"**

Luke 19:1 [Joy in Jericho] ... there was a man named Zacchaeus...**a chief tax collector**

- **Magnetic** Pos/Neg Attraction: Jesus sought sinners/Sinners sought Jesus

Luke 15:1 ...all the tax collectors and **the sinners drew near to Him** to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees/scribes complained, saying, "This Man **receives sinners** and eats with them."

Religion doesn't git the Bible

Genesis to Revelation: God calling sinners to Himself!

- Post sin/Rebellion/Blowing it. Post apple bite. God calls "**Adam where are you?"**
- **God's Mercy:** Makes provision for Adam's sin against Him...

Genesis 3:21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam/his wife...and clothed them.

The totality of Scripture Genesis-Revelation: God calling sinners to Himself!

Not about our goodness...but God's goodness
Not what we can do ... but what He did!

Ephesians 2:1 And you **He** made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. [What good have we done so far?] 4 **But God,** who is rich in mercy, because of **His great love** with which **He loved us,** 5 even

when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come **He might show** the exceeding riches of **His grace** in **His kindness** toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For **by grace you have been saved** through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**, 9 not of works lest anyone should boast.

All His work. His initiation. His pursuit. His love. Our surrender/Yielding to His Spirit

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation [substitute] for our sins ...**19** We love Him because **He first loved us.**

- **Self-Righteous Religious:** Always Bewildered by God's Grace...

Q. Why do You hang out with tax collectors/sinners?

A. Because **that's why I'm here.**

- Questioning Jesus in front of **vulnerable sinners seeking change...**

Mark 9:42 "...whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.

- **Religion mocks** those seeking to come to Jesus
- E.g., Youth group. Girl w/horrible family background comes out in new dress. Mocked

Religion: Look at these pathetic sinners thinking they can change!!!

Their Master did not leave them there to defend themselves... But He took the case **into his own hands.** [Spurgeon]

31 Jesus answered and said to 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.**"

Matthew 9:13 [Matthew AKA Levi adds] "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: '**I desire mercy and not sacrifice.**'

- I desire you to love others **not parade your religiosity...**
- Love does not parade itself...**That's easy**

You regard [sinners] as sick, and I regard them in the same way, **that is why I am here.** Why should I turn aside from them to insult you, who are so wonderfully healthy and think yourselves so good?" [Spurgeon]

Only those who know they need a Savior...will ever have a Savior

Religion believes its trivial sacrifices earn the right to stand with head lifted high before a Holy God...no matter how they demean people created in God's image. **Jesus encourages them...**

...Go and learn what this means '**I desire mercy to sinners/not your phony religion**

Jesus ate and drank with sinners

1 John 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.**

- Jesus was approachable **Are we?**
- Jesus is merciful **Are we?**

SUMMARY: Jesus Ate/Drank w/Sinners. Levi AKA Matthew writer of the Gospel of Matthew. Whosoever who drank of the Living Water

Jesus at Levi's House with sinners who know their need/desire Living Water
Eating/Drinking/Laughing with the Eternal God. **Ready for Change...**

V. New Wine Ready to Change

33 Then they said to Jesus, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but **Yours eat and drink?**"

**Laughing/Joy became intolerable...
Why aren't your disciples as miserable as us? Why don't they fast?**

34 And [Jesus] said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?"

Jesus contrasts Fasting/Mourning **vs** A Wedding/Joy

- **Q.** Why fast. **A.** To draw near to God
- God was sitting with them. How much closer could they get? Time of Joy!

Jesus: You couldn't make them fast today if you tried
But you guys will soon get your way...

35 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days."

- They will fast when you crucify Me/Jerusalem is leveled

Luke 19:43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build [lay siege] surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**"

**You have no idea what you are doing to your eternal soul at this dinner table
No idea what you are missing because you were not ready for change**

36 Then [Jesus] spoke a parable to them; "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old.

- Jesus speaks to the idolatry of Religiosity

I didn't come to patch things up
I came to do something Completely New

37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 But **new wine must be put into new wineskins**, and both are preserved.

I didn't come to add to your miserable old stale-tired life
I came to fill you w/New Life...**Q.** Are you ready for change?

- **Religious** Not ready for change. Content in misery
- **Sinners** More than ready for change...**big change.**

Indwelling Holy Spirit of the Living God

Jesus' point is clear. You **can't fit His new life into the old forms**. This explains why Jesus did not begin a reform movement within Judaism, working with the rabbinical schools and such. Jesus says, "I haven't come to patch up your old practices. I come with a **whole new set of clothes.**" [Guzik]

- I am leaving but will send My Spirit to indwell you forever...

John 14:18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and **you in Me, and I in you.**

- **When?** The moment you walked away from your desk...

Ephesians 1:13 In [Jesus] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, **having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

- **Redemption of Purchased Possession:** Jesus coming His Bride **now changed.**

Jesus Christ...offers "all things new" As a physician He offers sinners new life and spiritual health. As the Bridegroom He brings new love and joy. He gives us the robe of righteousness and the wine of the Spirit. **Life is a feast, not a famine or a funeral** and Jesus Christ is the only One who can make that kind of difference in our lives. [Wiersbe]

- God is preparing His Bride/that means change

Change is hard...Change is coming...Change is here
Always some resistance to change...

39 And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, **'The old is better.'**" [Not if the new is from God]

- God is preparing His Bride...

Revelation 19:6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God

Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." [Yielding to God's Holy Spirit]

- **Spirit is Moving...**Drawing Sinners/Sanctifying Saints

Jesus is coming soon for His bride
Are we [As Individuals/As Church] changing for the occasion?