

THE BIG STORY: The Hero Comes

The Wrong Crowd >> Luke 5

1. Who are some people that members of our society might consider villains?
2. While we wouldn't call them a "villain," are there people in your life that you have negative feelings toward (a former friend, family member, coworker)? This might also be someone who's brought emotional pain to your life. Stop, and take a minute to pray that God would bring to mind some people in your life that you may feel this way toward.
3. Discuss for a few moments the fact that Jesus forgave such a destructive member of society. In reality, Jesus' onlookers would not have been impressed by his forgiveness, they would have been insulted. Can you relate to this? How would you feel if Jesus responded this way to someone who had hurt you or your family?
4. This story is recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Each time it is connected with the story before (the Healing of The Paralyzed man). Levi's story is actually the second part of a two-part series. Read both stories together. Note Luke 5:17 specifically. What connections do you see between the two? Why did Matthew, Mark, and Luke all include these two together? What's the point being made here?
5. Your opinions about those that oppose you and those who have hurt you won't change overnight, but what are some ways that we can remind ourselves about the reality of sin as a sickness? How can we better understand our villains as victims?
6. How does this principle apply to the way we deal with sin in our own lives?

Sin is a sickness that requires a healer.

**Jesus doesn't say "Fix your life."
He says "Follow Me."**