

April 10, 2005
Shepherd's Community Church
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Luke 5:27-39

“Growing in Your Relationship with the Lost World: *Friendship Evangelism*”

Intro:

- High Potency + Close Proximity + Clear Message = High Impact

1. FOLLOW ME [RESIGNATION] – Luke 5:27-28

a. Tax collector / tax office

b. Follow me =

- Lk. 18:22; Mt. 4:19-21; 8:22; 16:24; Jn. 1:43; 12:26; 21:19-22

- He left everything behind =
- Levi got _____ to Jesus = _____

2. FISH WITH ME! [RECEPTION] – Luke 5:29

- Reception FOR Him in his house = Jesus was the _____

a. Tax collectors and OTHER PEOPLE = sinners in Mt. & Mk.

- Sinners in the eyes of the Pharisees also
- 5:30; 7:34; 15:1 = tax-collectors and sinners were synonymous

b. Reclining at the table with them = fellowship = _____

- Throw a “Levi” Party!

3. PHONEY PHARISEES [REPLACE OLD RELIGION] – Luke 5:30-39

a. Why do you associate with sinners? v. 30-32

- “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.”
- “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”
- Jesus was not concerned about being _____ by them, but was concerned about cleansing them of their _____. Jesus gave them a _____.

b. Why don't you keep the old Religious Laws? v. 33-39

1) Example #1 – v. 34-35

2) Example #2 – v. 36

3) Example #3 – v. 37-38

4) Problem – v. 39 – “Give me that Old Time Religion...”

Conclusion: High Potency + Close Proximity + Clear Message = High Impact

- Jesus came for sinners! Sinners should repent & follow Jesus!
- Christians should experience JOY in their forgiveness & cleansing!
- Christians should reach out to their friends with the truth of Jesus!
 - Get CREATIVE & throw a JESUS PARTY or a LEVI PARTY!
 - Let your friends come as they are, have a great time, and hear about the joy of salvation!
- Christians should expect that some would rather have RELIGION than a RELATIONSHIP with God!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What kind of people does Jesus call to follow Him? Give some biblical examples of the diverse backgrounds of people that all became genuine followers of Jesus. Give some current examples in our church.
2. In Luke 5:12-26 Jesus healed a paralytic and a leper. How might leprosy be related to sin? How do you think the leprous man felt when Jesus touched him? How might being paralyzed relate to religion? What point did Jesus want to make by healing these people? (study the context of Luke)
3. How do you think the other disciples felt when they saw Jesus calling a tax collector to follow Him? Might they have been “embarrassed” to have a tax collector as a part of their group? Are religious people ever embarrassed by certain kinds of people coming to their church? What does the Bible say about this? (i.e., James 2)
4. Jesus told the disciples that as they followed Him they would become fishers of men (Mt. 4:19). During those days did they primarily fish with a line and hook or with a net? What would be implied by the use of a net?
5. Why did Levi have a reception at his house? Who was the guest of honor? What do you think Levi was hoping would happen?
6. Did Jesus go to the reception just to hang out with sinners? What was he committed to doing (v. 31-32)? What can we learn from this about our relationships with unbelievers?
7. Why did the religious leaders have such a problem with Jesus and his disciples eating with tax collectors and sinners? What could go wrong when we hang out with sinners? What could go right?
8. What happens when we try to put a vibrant relationship with Jesus (New Covenant) into old religious structures (Pharisaical Old Covenant)? Did Jesus come simply to repair (patch) the Old Covenant or replace it? (see Hebrews 8)

9. What are some ways that people today try to mix the Old Covenant with the New Covenant?
10. Levi wanted his old friends to hear about a RELATIONSHIP with Jesus that changed his life. Do your friends see you as RELIGIOUS or do they see you as having a joy-filled RELATIONSHIP with Jesus?
11. If you were to throw a “Levi party” for a bunch of sinners that you know, how many could you invite? What could you begin to do to get to know more lost people in your community?
12. Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus could meet all the needs of your friends? When can you plan a “Levi Party” for your lost friends to tell them about the One that has all authority to meet the deepest needs of their life?

DATE: _____

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