

Next One In Luke 5:27-32

Introduction

- If you could have any celebrity as a dinner guest, who would you pick? Why?
- In the scripture today, we see a man named Levi, later called Matthew, who had an encounter with Jesus. After this experience, he threw a huge party for all of his friends so they could meet Jesus too.

Deeper Dive

- Ask someone to read Luke 5:27-32. If your group is meeting in person, divide into pairs and take turns retelling the story. If your group is meeting online, ask a few people to retell the story in their own words.
- Ask:
 1. What is significant in Levi's call to follow Jesus?
 2. Why do you think Levi (Matthew) was so eager to host a party for Jesus and invite all of his tax collector friends?
 3. What do you learn about Jesus from his time at Levi's house?
 4. The Pharisees and teachers of the law complained about Jesus sharing a meal and spending casual time with sinners. Read Jesus' response to their complaints in verse 31-32. Do you consider yourself "healthy" or "sick"? "Righteous" or "sinner"? Why? Which are your friends? Thank God that you have a new identity in Christ!

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Reflection

- In this week's sermon, we learned 3 reasons to bring people to Jesus.
 1. God's desire. God desires people to be in a relationship with Him. 2 Peter 3:9
Ask: Does your desire for others to have a relationship with God reflect His desire for people to be in relationship with Him?
 2. Your purpose. Jesus came to call people to a new way of life. As a follower of Jesus, His mission is now your mission. Acts 1:8
Ask: How do you feel about Jesus' mission being your mission?
 3. Their need. In verse 31, Jesus called the people "sick"—not with Covid or Cancer but spiritually ill, miserable, hurt, wounded, broken.
Ask: What can you learn from Matthew's party? Who do you need to invite over this week?

Closing

- Pray for one another. Ask God to show you your "next one in." Ask Him to give you compassion and urgency. Pray for the Spirit to reveal and draw them. Pray for people and circumstances to align for opportunity. Pray for courage to speak up. Pray for salvation.