

## The Call That Changes All

*Reaching People Far From God*

Luke 5:27-32

Jesus calls each of us into a personal relationship with Him. This call changes our lives and it should change the lives of others as well. Levi's call reveals how we are all called to reach people far from God.

*After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him,<sup>28</sup> and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.<sup>29</sup> Then Levi held a great banquet at his house for Jesus, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.<sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.<sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*  
Luke 5:27-32 (New International Version)

### ➤ #1. WE **NOTICE PEOPLE FAR FROM GOD.**

- Levi = Matthew (We see his story in Matthew 9 and Mark 2.)
- Tax Collector – Publican: Luke 15:1 puts them in the same group as sinners.
- Jesus spoke with authority.

*. . . "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*  
Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

- What does it mean to follow Jesus?

*. . . "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.<sup>20</sup> For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."* Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)

- Application: Who do you notice that is far from God?

### ➤ #2. WE **BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE FAR FROM GOD.**

*Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.* Luke 5:29 (NIV)

- We are called to begin sharing Christ from the moment that we begin following Him.
- Good news is not something we want to keep to ourselves! (See Mark 1:40-45; John 4; Acts 3:1-10; Acts 2.)
- We have to be willing to step out of our "religious" circles.

*But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"* Luke 5:30 (NIV)

- Application: Where can I begin to build relationships with the lost?

Family: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Neighbors: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### ➤ #3. WE BRING THEM TO **REPENTANCE IN CHRIST.**

*Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.<sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* Luke 5:31-32 (NIV)

- Why Jesus came

- to be among the spiritually sick

*For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.* Luke 19:10 (NIV)

- to call people to repentance

*". . . unless you repent, you too will all likewise perish.* Luke 13:3b (NIV)

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise with you, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

- Repentance: Turning **away** from sin and turning **to** Jesus Christ for forgiveness.

- Personal Application: Do you recognize your own need for forgiveness?

"Come, follow Me." – Is that "call" changing the lives of those around you?

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