

April 23, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
Luke 5:27-32 – “Sinners Called to Repentance”

- A. Imagine someone with a long criminal record becomes a regular visitor to our church. He has served his time in jail, yet his body— including his face— is as marked-up with as many tattoos as his bad reputation is. What might others in the community say?
- B. Immediately before today’s text, Jesus proved He had divine authority to forgive sin & divine power to cure the most debilitating of illnesses as he healed the paralytic. Today’s text shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd who came to seek-out the lost & hurt sheep of Israel.

Put your faith in Jesus who calls sinners to faith & repentance.	I. <u>THE CALLING OF LEVI</u> II. <u>CHRIST’S CALLING SINNERS</u>
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I. THE CALLING OF LEVI → **v27**

- A. It was offensive to many Jews for Jesus to call Levi the tax collector to follow Him.
  - 1. Most Jews despised tax collectors [“publicans” KJV] for 2 main reasons.
    - a. They were painful reminders that the Jews were subjects of Roman imperial domination.
    - b. Tax collectors had a terrible reputation of taking more than what was required for them to collect.
  - 2. Many people fear what others think of them— not Jesus!
- B. When Jesus said, “**Follow Me,**” Levi’s response was obedient & immediate to His call. → **v28**
  - 1. This call of Jesus was not merely for Levi to follow Jesus as only a believer or disciple; this was his call to be one of the 12 apostles of Jesus.
  - 2. When Jesus called His apostles, this was a unique & immediate calling from the God-man who knew the hearts of men.
    - a. Elsewhere in the NT, calling men to become either elders (overseers) or deacons is not immediate at all. It may take a rather long time. → **1 Tim 3:1-7f**
    - b. Especially in the matter of testing someone, all this can take years. In the OPC, a candidate for gospel minister requires extensive training & testing.
- C. Levi— also known as Matthew— was no doubt excited about meeting Jesus Christ. He wanted all his friends & fellow tax collectors to meet Jesus as well. → **v29**
  - 1. Levi didn’t throw this party to celebrate his calling as an apostle.
  - 2. He gave this “**big reception**” because he found salvation in Christ; he wanted everyone he knew to come to faith & repentance in Christ as well.

## II. CHRIST'S CALLING SINNERS

A. The glorious gospel call of Christ became evident after the Jewish leadership complained about who Jesus & his disciples associated with. → **v30**

1. In **1 Ki 11:2**, the Jews were forbidden to intermarry with gentiles. The Lord told them, **“You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.”**
  - a. The excess of the Pharisees & scribes was that they sought not to associate with their own fellow Jews because of their occupation as tax collectors.
  - b. Maybe if a Jew didn't attend the synagogue regularly, the religious elite labeled them as sinners & unworthy to associate with.
    - 1) God through the prophecy of Ezekiel rebuked such disobedient, selfish shepherds who didn't seek after the lost. → **Ezek 34:1-16**
    - 2) The worthless shepherds complained & criticized while Jesus the Good Shepherd, as the fulfillment of **Ezek 34**, sought after the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

B. Notice how Jesus replied to the lame grumbling of the Pharisees & scribes → **vv31-32.**

1. Have you come to Christ in faith & repentance?
  - a. Your first step is to admit that you are a sinner in desperate need of God's grace & mercy that can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - b. We must read **v32** here in light that **Rom 3:10** says no one has individual, personal righteousness in & of themselves— **“There is none righteous, not even one.”**
  - c. Christ's argument here is that He didn't come to call those who considered themselves righteous but those who were willing to confess that they were sinners in need of mercy before an infinitely holy & just God.
  - d. If you confess your sin & embrace Jesus as your Lord & Savior, you will be the recipient of a magnificent exchange.
2. If you have put your faith in Jesus who died for your sins, part of His calling you to eternal life must include a life marked by repentance.
  - a. Jesus didn't call you to eternal life so that you can live any way that you want.
  - b. Jesus calls **“sinners to repentance” (v32)**.
    - 1) The Greek word for **“repentance”** here can also be translated **“conversion”** or more literally, a **“change of mind.”**
    - 2) You are saved by faith alone & not by works yet true saving faith is never truly alone. A lively faith produces repentance or a change of mind resulting in a changed way of life.

Review, further application, & conclusion: