

Luke Chapter 5

V: 1 The people pressed upon Him, crowding around Him, to hear the word of God, trying to get close – He was probably getting pressed back towards the water.



Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby.”

- That desire for more, for more of the Word of God.

Psalm 42:1 “As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.”

Application: Pray and ask God to give you an increasing desire for His Word.

V: 2-3 Jesus was intent on continuing to teach and to give the people the Word so He took advantage of the boats that were just sitting there waiting to be used, along with the natural acoustics of the landscape.

- Upon request, Simon – later to be Simon Peter, who was either part of the crowd or near by, pushed out a little to give Jesus a enough room to be heard – then just like in a synagogue, Jesus sat down to teach.

Jesus is again acting in the capacity of the Good Shepherd:

Isaiah 40:11 “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”

V: 4-5 After finishing the teaching, Jesus turns His attention to Peter, Jesus had somewhat commandeered Peter’s boat, now He’s going to be compensated – God will not be a debtor to any man.

Matthew 19:29 “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”

- “*Let down your net for a catch.*” Peter responds that they’ve already tried with no success, but “because You say so, I will.” In obedience to God’s Word, and in defiance of worldly wisdom, Peter does what Jesus says.

1 Corinthians 3:19 “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...”

Matthew 19:26 “... with God all things are possible.”

- The expression of our faith should not be limited to what we say, but what we do.

John 15:14 “You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”

V: 6-7 This is an excellent illustration of what man can do vs: what God can do.

John 15:5 “... apart from Me you can do nothing.”

- They catch / are given more than two boats can handle – that is how God blesses!

Ephesians 3:20 “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

- The blessing is found in obedience:

Proverbs 8:32 “Now therefore, listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep My ways.”

Application: Doing God’s Word may not seem to make sense, or you think if I do that, then this will happen or it won’t work - VS just do it and see what God might do.

V: 8-11 Seeing the miracle that Jesus had performed, knowing that it was an actual factual miracle especially in light of his night of toil, having just heard an excellent Bible study by Jesus, Peter starts connecting the dots, realizing what a sinful man he is in the process, especially in comparison to Jesus.

Isaiah 6:1-5 “¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory! ⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵So I said: woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

- Peter may not have come to the full realization that Jesus is God, but he knows for certain that Jesus is a holy man of God, and that he himself is a sinner. James and John come to the same conclusion.
- Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, and John all get to shore, seeing the great catch of fish – with an appreciation of the value of the catch – and walk away from it, in fact they pretty much walk away from everything.

“... *they forsook all, and followed Him.*”

- It's just a matter of making the comparison, evaluating which is more important, and making the right choice – which they did.

Philippians 3:8 “Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.”

Luke 9:62 “No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

V: 12 Luke next records Jesus' encounter with a leper, this takes place just after the sermon on the mount at the Mount of Beatitudes, probably entering Capernaum.

Parallel account:

Matthew 8:1-2 “¹When He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. ²And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.”

- There is a big crowd around Jesus, and here comes this leper.
- Leprosy = very often a type or analogy of sin.

Isaiah 1:5-6 “⁵Why should you be stricken / smitten again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. ⁶From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment.”

- When it comes down to it we're all leprous.

Romans 3:10, 23 “¹⁰As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one;” - “²³For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

- We truly are sinners through and through: we need to acknowledge our own depravity.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

- For a season the modern day equivalent seemed to be AIDS / Poison oak...
- “Leprosy” = “smitten” in Hebrew.

Leviticus ch. 13 describes leprosy and its effects. (turn with me to)

- **Lev. 13:3** leprosy / sin: More than skin deep.

- **Lev. 13:8** leprosy / sin: It spreads.
- **Lev. 13:46** leprosy / sin: It separates.
- **Lev. 13:52** leprosy / sin: Is only fit for the fire. It leads to a very warm place where there weeping, wailing, and the gnashing of teeth.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death...”

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

- That is us, apart from Jesus, apart from the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ we’re all just a bunch of wretched sinners, full of filth, and iniquity.
- Seeing ourselves, seeing our sin. We should want to gag and throw up.

Romans 12:9 “... abhor (utterly detest) what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

- John Newton: Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
- Talmud’s (Jewish commentary on the Law) listing of “defilements”: #1 is death. #2 is leprosy.

Leprosy described: (in more clinical terms)

1. Skin takes on a hard, glossy appearance.
 2. Open running sores.
 3. Progressive / spreads, attacks the nerves, become numb, “de-sensitized”.
 4. Living gangrene.
 5. Face swells, develops folds, lion like appearance, nose disappears.
 6. Decaying dead odor can be smelled from over 100’ away.
 7. Contagious, incurable, and deadly, can take up to 30 years to kill you.
- Upon being diagnosed with leprosy the individual became an automatic outcast.
(Division / separation)

Outcast: You can almost see how it would play out. Working in a field and the initial discovery. Attempted treatment, no progress or healing. Seen by a priest, diagnosed and immediately separated from wife, children, family, and friends. No farewells, no hugs goodbye, quarantined.

- If a leper was able to travel and came within sight of another non-leper they were to cover themselves and call out “un-clean, unclean” to warn others to stay away.
- If they came into a town or village and were recognized as a leaper they would be driven out with stones. They were not allowed to live within a walled city.

- Just like the leper who is losing the nerve endings and ability to sense or feel we too can become de-sensitized to sin.
- **As Christians we can be all too comfortable with sin.**
- Sometimes the way this happens is through the things we expose ourselves to.
- Violent, profane, immoral movies, video games that portray bad things, music that glorifies or breeds acceptance of bad behavior, keeping company with people that are involved with these things.

Cow pies: testimony -

- Pastor's son – Oregon – window – outside – hands / forearms – joy & delight.
- To those who knew better it is disgusting & revolting.

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;”

1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

- From a cultural sociological standpoint this leper should not have been there, he was supposed to cry out “unclean! Unclean! and avoid the crowd, knowing that he would be stoned if he approached them, contrary to all of that, he risked the wrath of the crowd and came near to Jesus. He had hope in Jesus. (1st mention leprosy NT)
- This leper asked for healing in spite of the “rules”.

James 4:2b “... yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”

- Matthew's Gospel states that this leper “*came and worshipped Him...*”
- “Worshipped”, this word for worship is specific and only used for the worship of God.
- Notice the order: worship / humility; right heart; petition / request; response.

Saying, Lord, if You will / if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

- The leper didn't question God's ability to heal him, he questioned if it was God's will to heal him.

“*Clean*” (G-2513) “katharos;” clean (lit. or fig.), clear, pure.

V: 13 Jesus touched him, when no one else could or would.

- Please note the chronology: Jesus touched him first, and then He spoke to him.
- Sometimes it is the touch of our Lord, through His servants in practical ways that enables His children to hear those words of healing, and cleansing: (Bay St. Louis).
- So was it the touch of our Lord Jesus that healed this man, or was it the Word spoken to him? I'd say both. Appear to be simultaneous.

Hebrews 4:12 "For the Word of God is quick and powerful / living, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Psalm 33:9 "For He spoke, and it was done..."

- Jesus spoke the words that the leper had hoped for and needed to hear:

"I am willing, be cleansed." - The cleansing power of the Word of God.

John 15:3 "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

Ephesians 5:26 "That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word."

John the Baptist said it:

John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!"

- Put your eyes on Jesus, keep your eyes on Jesus – and He will clean you up.

2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

- Ben Hur: mother's leprosy transferred to Jesus on the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-5 "4Surely he has born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."

Why?

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

- When Jesus touched him, it wasn't a timid, tentative, pokey kind of a touch.
- I love a good hand shake.

- I love talking with young people and kids just like I would my own children and often times I will put my hand on their shoulder and speak to them.
- To me this communicates a love, acceptance, a tenderness, a connection of sorts and honestly this is how I feel when God communicates to me, like His child.
- His hand on my shoulder, speaking in comfortable, loving tones into the deepest parts of my heart.
- I think that this is how Jesus spoke to this leper –
- Jesus seemed to always minister to the one with the greatest need, and to their greatest need – cleansing, forgiveness, restoration of our relationship with God.

“immediately” –

Luke 4:39 “So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.”

Luke 8:44 “came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.”

V: 14-15 *“Tell no man”* Mark 1:45 – he told everybody!

Mark 1:45 “However he went out, and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the matter, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter the city, but was outside in deserted places; and they came to Him from every direction.”

- There was also a crowd of people, a great multitude all around Him when this happened.
- Why would Jesus say that? Why would He not want it known?

Answer: 1. Not a magic show. 2. Timing issue.

“Show yourself to the priest, ...”

- A testimony to the priest who had probably already seen him so that he would see that God was working miracles in Israel.
- A testimony to one who would appreciate it.

“14... show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded.”

- Be obedient to the Law, obey the Word.

(Turn to)

Leviticus 14:1-7 describes the ceremony of cleansing of a leper / sinner.

➤ In this we see a model of Jesus in the Old Testament, and the only cure for sin.

Leviticus 14:1-2 “¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, ²this shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing: he shall be brought to the priest:”

Leviticus 14:3a “^{3a}And the priest shall go out of the camp;” (that’s where the leper will be.)

Hebrews 4:14 “seeing then that we have a great High Priest, ... Jesus the Son of God.” Who was crucified outside of the camp.

Leviticus 14:3b-7 “^{3b}And the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper; ⁴Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, (doves) and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: (ingredients Passover / Cross) ⁵And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel (Jesus) over running water (Holy Spirit): ⁶As for the living bird,(us) he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water: (washed in the blood of the lamb) ⁷And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field.”

John 8:31-32 “³¹If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed; ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:36 “If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”

- This law had been on the books for 1500 years and had not been used.

“... go, and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded.”

- Many priests came to believe in Jesus.

John 12:42 “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed n Him;...”

Acts 6:7 “And the Word of God spread; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem; and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

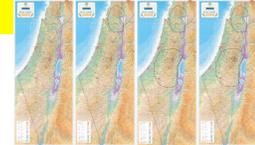
- The same is true for us today, when people see our lives changed, cleaned up – and when we give God the glory, when we testify of the shed blood of Jesus – others will come to faith – others will be healed as well.

V: 16 After ministering to the needs of many you would think He'd turn in for a good night's sleep, needing rest – but what He sought was refreshment in the presence of His Father.

- He may have been praying in part because He knew that He was about to face a spiritual battle with the religious leaders, and because there would be other needs to be met.

Luke 11:1 “And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of His disciples said unto Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”

V: 17 Jesus is teaching, and as has been previously noted the people have remarked that no one has ever taught like this with such authority – and now the religious leaders are taking in the teaching, perhaps they are curious about what they've heard: Pharisees & doctors of the Law, probably scribes.



- On a certain day, not the Sabbath.
- From **Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem**: large area, prob large #
- “*The power of the Lord was present to heal them...*” – not speaking of the man with palsy in the next few verses, but the healing of the religious leaders who's hearts had been hardened to the Word of God, towards Jesus.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 “¹¹For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope / an expected end. ¹²Then you shall call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will hear you. ¹³And you shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart.”

Ezekiel 36:26 “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

John 12:42 “Nevertheless among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;”

V: 18-26 Describes the miracle of the man with palsy, the paralytic being healed.

Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke. (synonymous)

- Composite picture from three accounts, details.

Matthew 9:1-8

Paralytic
Brought by others on a bed.
Be of good cheer / Sins forgiven
Scribes / blasphemes
Knew their thoughts – evil.
(What was evil about them?)
Explanation / take up bed and go.
Marveled & glorified God.

Mark 2:3-12

Carried by 4 men.
Un-covered roof & lowered down.
Jesus saw their faith.
Son your sins are forgiven you.
Amazed, glorified God.

Luke 5:17-26

As He was teaching, Pharisees sitting by.
Power of the Lord present to heal them.
They did whatever they had to do to get to God.
Praising God and filled with fear.

V: 18-19 Mark's Gospel tells us that there were 4 men carrying their friend.

Mark 2:3 "Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men."

- "Paralytic" - "sick of the palsy..." The end result of VD, debilitating, a locking up and fusing of the various joints, physically very painful, yet leaving the mind in tact.
- Finding no other way, they got up on top of the house and removed a portion of the roof "*through the tiling...*" and lowered him down before Jesus. (Practicality)
- Capernaum / Peter's house – Lord all that I have is yours – sometimes He takes us up on that!
- Overall this scene looks like pallbearers lowering their friend, a dead man into the grave, but he comes into contact with Jesus and is resurrected!

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he that hears My word, and believes in Him that sent Me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment; but is passed from death into life."

V: 20 "*Their*" faith" Who's faith is that? The crowd? Expectations? Those who carried the paralytic? The paralytic himself?

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

- Their hope was that their friend might be healed, the paralytic certainly hoped for that.

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

- Their actions were proof / evidence as to their faith that Jesus was able to do this.
- Jesus always dealt with the greatest need first; in this case the greatest need was his "sin problem."

Doctrine of forgiveness: unique to Christianity.

Psalm 32:1-2 "1Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile."

Proverbs 28:13 “He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.”

Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he that blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins.”

V: 21-22 The religious leaders are thinking as opposed to saying.

Matthew 9:3 “And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

Mark 2:6 “And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God (In this case the incarnate Word of God) is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- This is a demonstration of the omniscience – the all knowingness of God.

Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”

Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

- Can I get an amen?
- Jesus knows what is in their hearts, their thoughts, and their thoughts are evil.

Matthew 9:4 “But Jesus knowing their thoughts said, why do you think evil in your hearts?”

- Possibly like blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, their thoughts were at the least a denial of the deity of Jesus, they were a refutation of the witness of the Holy Spirit
- At the very least they are judging God, and they are being un-merciful and un-loving. All the opposite of how we’re supposed to be.

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?”

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke each state the accusation: “... who is this man that speaks blasphemies?”

- Blasphemy:
 1. impious (un-pious) utterance or action concerning God or sacred things.
 2. an act of cursing or reviling God.
- “Blasphemy:” is a transliteration of a Greek word meaning literally “to speak harm.”
- In the biblical context, blasphemy is an attitude of disrespect that finds expression in an act directed against the character of God.

Speaking wrong things about God.

- In this case from their perspective, Jesus is usurping the privilege or power of God to forgive, or implying His own deity in that He is able to forgive, something that only God can do.
- Jesus assumed the power and authority of God personally in His statement.
- As far as the forgiveness of sins goes, they were right, only God can forgive sins.

Psalm 51:4 “Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight: that You might be justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge.”

V: 23 Practical question: Which is easier? Considering they are both impossible for us!

- Jesus has the power to say, “be healed”, or “live!”

John 14:11 “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”

- He also has the power and right to say “you are forgiven”, because He is the One who will actually pay the price for that sin.

V: 24 So that they would know that His words were not just mere words: this is intended to be instructive to all of them.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful,...it’s alive.”

Psalm 33:6, 9 “⁶By the Word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.” - “⁹For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.”

- When God speaks, things happen.

Genesis 1:3 “And God said, let there be light: and there was light.”

- Notice: Jesus refers to Himself as the “Son of Man” - a known Messianic title.

- Once the 1st problem (sin) is addressed: (confession & repentance)

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- Then the 2nd problem / physical problem is also addressed and is used as a qualifier; validating His authority and who He was representing.
- Like the healed demoniac at Gadera, he is told to go to his house – where real testimonies are lived out and observed by those who can appreciate it the most.
- God’s commandments are His enablements. He won’t command us to do something that He won’t enable us to do.

Philippians 2:13 “For it is God which works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”

V: 25 “*Immediately*” just like when the light pierced the darkness, he rose up in simple obedience – vindication, validation, proof: who can forgive sins? Only God can do that. Who can make the lame walk? He left “glorifying God”, because he knew who healed him!

- Who can cause the lame to walk, the blind to see? Only God can do that!

V: 26 They were all “amazed” and glorified God. “All” included Pharisees & Scribes.

- Jesus’ actions always pointed to the Father, consistent with His teaching, with God’s word, that all works were to bring glory to God the Father.

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Note:

“... *and were filled with fear*...” - Because they knew they’d been in the presence of God and that God is real.

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...”

- Notice that it doesn’t read – and they all believed... being amazed isn’t the same as believing. The miracles simply validate the authority of the messenger.

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

- There are many other instances where Jesus spoke – and people believed.

- Often times miracles excite us, and they should, but our faith isn't based on the emotion of the event, our faith is based on the word of God, which is the anchor to our soul.

V: 27-28 Matthew – “*Levi*”, a Levite but not acting very “priestly”. (Joined, cleave to)

- “**Matthew**” (Jesus re-names him in Ch. 6) “**The gift of Yahweh**”. As we'll see Matthew went from being a curse to being a blessing.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

- **Tax Collectors**: were hated individuals, they were considered traitors, collaborating with the Roman government, even Jesus used them as negative examples.
 1. Collecting taxes in Capernaum, a major trade route between Egypt and Damascus.
 2. This must have been very lucrative.
 3. The Romans had a number of different taxes and the tax collectors were very creative.
- There was the Roman pole tax, this was an across the board tax that applied to every Roman subject, just for being alive, for breathing Roman air – a flat rate tax that applied to every person.
- There was a 10% income tax, 10% of your crops or 10% of the proceeds from the sale of your crops.
- There were taxes for transporting goods from one area to another, road tax, customs, how many axels or wheels on your cart.
- There was the minimum requirement to the Roman government; but anything beyond that which they could collect they were allowed to keep, almost encouraging gouging the people and being dishonest – they were notoriously rich and universally hated.

But Jesus said:

“*Follow Me.*” He didn't say follow Pastor so and so, He didn't say “follow this church” or that group - He said “*Follow Me.*” I'm pretty sure that He means for us to follow Him.

- Matthews's actions spoke for him, he voted with his feet, and with his heart.

- Notice the order of the words “*he left all*” – in his heart, then “*rose up*” and followed Jesus.

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me.”

- Matthew made a choice:

Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

- Moving forward with Jesus almost always means leaving other things behind, leaving a past life, possessions, relationships, the cares of the world.

Philippians 3:7-8 “⁷But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yes indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

- Matthew doesn’t wait or hesitate, he responds in obedience.

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For He says, in an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

V: 29 Throughout the Gospels we see Jesus in 3 different settings.

1. We see Jesus in open / public places – teaching, preaching, and healing.
2. We see Jesus in quiet solitary places communing with the Father, praying.
3. We see Jesus in somebody’s home often with large and diverse groups. Pharisees, tax collectors, fishermen – enjoying a good meal.

Matthew takes Jesus home – As we all should!

- Many publicans / sinners. (Matthew 9). No one else would be their friend!
- Later on we’ll read about Zacchaeus (Luke 19), a tax collector who also hosts Jesus and a bunch of sinners – and the religious leaders murmured the same thing then as well.

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”

- Matthew opened not just the door to his home, but also to his heart.

V: 30-32 The religious leaders “murmur” / complain about their eating with “sinners”.

There really weren't any other options:

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

- Doctor Jesus came not only to heal the sick, but to pay the bill!
- No categories of sin, they all lead to the same place, and apart from Jesus we're all headed there.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- We tend to look at different sins with varying degrees of judgment: but they are all the same.
- Culturally: a meal with someone was “Koinonia” – fellowship in a deep sense, becoming one with someone through food, sharing, double dipping, etc.
- Jesus is breaking with tradition, He's violating their social taboos in sitting down to a meal with publicans and sinners.

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is ... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

- Jesus didn't come for the righteous (self), but for the unrighteous, Jesus came to minister to those in need, but not all recognized their need.

Romans 3:10 “For there is none righteous, no not one.”

- “Our righteousness” is actually “self-righteousness” it isn't of God:

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags, and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

V: 33-35 (Matthew) Disciples of John & Pharisees. The question, is not necessarily hostile, possibly self righteous: “why do we and the Pharisee's fast often – but your disciples don't?”

- By challenging the disciple's behavior they are challenging the teacher, or the teaching.

- In the O/T, fasting was a sign of mourning, in the N/T it is indicative of self denial or chastening.
- “**Friends of the bridegroom**” = wedding guests stayed for a week long during the “honey moon” / party time. They were children of the bride & groom, the “King & Queen”.
- Bridegroom = Jesus.

Psalm 16:11 “You wilt shew me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

- In the presence of the Groom there was to be joy and celebration – because they are with Him.
- The High Priest wasn’t allowed to show grief – because he’d been in the presence of the Lord.
- **Nehemiah Chapters 1-2:** Nehemiah was a cup-bearer to Artaxerxes, the king.
- Jesus answers that the days are coming – when I’m gone – that fasting and self denial will be appropriate.

Mark 8:34 “... whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

V: 36-38 Dealing with either cotton or wool for clothing, they made everything oversized because they knew that when they washed it – it would shrink greatly.

- Everything was shrink to fit. To put a patch of new cloth on an old garment with a tear would just make the tear worse.
- Jesus came to give us spiritual wholeness, not just to patch us up.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷that the man of God may be perfect / complete, thoroughly equipped for all good works.”

2 Peter 1:2-3 “²Grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, ³according as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue.”

- The traditions of the Pharisees and Scribes had become old and dry, like old wine skins, rigid, brittle, and in-flexible. As Jesus brought new life, their old

concepts and traditions weren't capable of containing it, Jesus' teachings pretty well blew their traditions apart.

- Old & new; Law & Grace.

John 1:17 “For the Law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

V: 39 They say the old is better: Some people are more interested in what God did 500 years ago than in what He is doing and wanting to do today. We can get stuck in our traditions and not be attuned to the Spirit of God and His leading.

- How do we keep from getting stuck in traditions, how do we keep ourselves flexible and usable to whatever the Lord might want to do both personally and corporately?
- We immerse ourselves in the word and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. We soak ourselves in the word of God – we allow the Word to be our priority in life, the emphasis of our ministry – and it will have a softening effect in our lives, a renewing effect in us.
- When the Word of God is no longer our focus and priority; when traditions take the pre-eminence we become dry and rigid.

Revelation 21:5 “... behold, I make all things new....”

Jeremiah 31:31 “Behold, the days are come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”