

LUKE 5:27-32

8 AUGUST 2021

ICE BREAKER: Describe a big decision you made recently.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 27-28) Capernaum was situated on the sea route from east and north of the Sea of Galilee and on the great land route connecting Damascus in the north to the Mediterranean Sea on the east. All goods carried by ship or caravan on these routes were taxed here in Capernaum. **Levi**, also known as **Matthew**, must have been **quite wealthy** as a tax collector here. He most likely knew the fishermen Peter and Andrew and probably heard Jesus’ preaching because Jesus used Capernaum as his base for ministry in Galilee.

Nevertheless, when Jesus sees Levi, he calls him saying, “Follow me.” Notice **Jesus’ call** to Levi. Jesus does **not ask** him, **nor beg** him, **nor bargain** with him. Now notice **Levi’s response**. There was **no debate**, **no excuse**, and **no delay**. “Levi got up, left everything and followed him.”

1. What convicts you about **Jesus’ call** and **Levi’s response**?

(Read verse 29) Immediately after obeying Jesus’ call to be a **disciple**, Levi **lead** a great feast at his **own home honoring Jesus**. Because he was a new believer, Levi could not have fully understood Jesus’ Gospel, nor put aside all his worldly habits. He surely was in danger of behaving the wrong way or saying the wrong things.

Yet, Jesus pays no regard to Levi’s former lifestyle, nor to the possible embarrassment Levi posed as a new believer hosting a home gathering in His honor. Levi’s discipleship training would begin right in his own home.

2. What challenges you about Levi **leading a home gathering**, honoring Jesus, just after becoming a **believer**?

(Read verse 29) Immediately following Jesus’ call, Levi held a great banquet. He invited all in his **relational network**—“a large crowd of tax collectors and others”. Evidently, Levi did not care about possible skepticism of his wealthy colleagues or scorn from religious leaders. He wanted only to celebrate Jesus with those he knew.

Although Levi was a new believer, he understood an important aspect of Jesus’ Gospel—the Christian faith is **not a private faith**. **Salvation** is not only for ourselves, but **expressed** in the **sharing** of that salvation with others.

3. Describe a time when you were **inspired** by someone **sharing their faith** in Christ **publically**.

(Read verses 30-32) To the Jews, **tax collectors** were considered **legal thieves** who gouged the people of money to fund Caesar’s pagan pleasures and support the Roman rule over Israel. For a Jew to be a tax collector was a **double insult**. He was cut off from being a witness in court and excommunicated from the synagogue. The members of his family were considered equally stained. Tax collectors were considered in the same category as murderers, prostitutes, and adulterers.

Jesus’ call upon Levi must have outraged and confused many. However, Jesus proclaims that His call upon Levi, a Jewish tax collector, was **not the exception**, but the **very purpose** for why he came! Jesus spent very little time with the comfortable, self-righteous or powerful of his day.

4. **Personally, who are you finding the most difficult to share Jesus’ Gospel, and why?**

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week or invite to Celebration.)
