

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE  
JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

LUKE CHAPTER 5:27-35

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX-594 MARCH 19, 2005

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS**

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF MAN*

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SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Forgiveness, Salvation, Fellowship, Acceptance**

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**Just Across the Street**

*You can walk into the Borders Book Store and See an Ever Increasing Amount of those  
"How To" Books...*

**The Roman Empire had its "How To's"**

The Roman Empire during the time of Christ had a rule and a law for nearly everything. You had better know the ins and outs of the empire or you could easily end up on the wrong side of the law, and in the Roman Empire, to be a criminal could cost you your life. The Roman world demanded unwavering allegiance, because the empire saw itself as a god to man.

**You Had to Know How to Get Along in the Empire  
Its Taxes;**

Mainly, there were two. The Poll Tax and Ground Tax.

the Poll tax was a fee that you had to pay for breathing Roman air, if you were alive, you had to pay this tax. The other Tax was the Ground Tax. This is the tax that funded the Roman Infrastructure. It paid for the famous Roman roads and the aqueducts and its harbors and the like.

**To Follow Rome was an Expensive Journey  
but one of prestige and boasting**

**after all, to be able to declare yourself to be a Roman,  
was like being a child of the gods**

**The Pressure to Identify with Rome  
was a great one and it often led to exploitation and usury**

**Jesus Had Said, Come and Follow Me**

John 18:36a

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

### Luke 5:27-29

**After these things** He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." :28 So he **left** all, **rose** up, and **followed** Him. :29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them.

### Luke 5:30-32

And "**their**" scribes and the Pharisees **complained** against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with **tax collectors** and **sinner**s?" :31 Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. :32 I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

### Luke 5:33-35

Then they said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but **Yours** (disciples) eat and drink?" :34 And He said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? (no!) :35 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast, - in those days."

## HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS

**I.) Simply respond to Him**

**v.27-29**

**a.) We respond by listening**

**After these things** He went out and **saw** (fixed) a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me."

### This is Matthew Levi

the author of the gospel of Matthew. a Jewish man who had turned his back on Israel to side with the Empire. he was hated by his fellow Jews and just a tool for Rome's income. What Matthew had was what he got, and what he got was gotten by tax exploitation! - wealthy, aloof and an opportunist, Matthew was doing pretty well in the world.

**After these things** He went out and **saw** (fixed)

**saw**

qeaꞥomai theaomai, *teh-ah'-om-ahē;*

a prolonged form to "look closely at", a long and deliberate "gaze", to "peer into", to "study" someone closely.

### Perhaps for Matthew He Thought:

"It made me a little uneasy at first. then as he continued to stare and began to feel very uncomfortable, almost like I was naked or something, I felt isolated from everyone else around me. but then, I looked up at Him again, and I felt a sense of acceptance, of belonging, of coming home. it changed my life in that instant, then He said **"Follow Me"**

It wasn't a question, it wasn't an order, it wasn't a suggestion,

**it was an answer!**

The Answer to Everything for My Life is to Follow Jesus!  
**Following Jesus is the Answer to Your Life's Question(s)**  
but he was "a tax collector"

follow me

ajkolouqe+w akoloutheo, ak-ol-oo-theh´ -o; and ke+leuqoß keleuthos

begin now to go down the same road together, begin now to be going in the same direction, begin now to accompany me. begin now to be at one!

**b.) We respond by acting**

**v.28**

Here is Levi's Example for Us...

So he **left** all, **rose** up, and **followed** Him

**Something Had Happened to Levi's Thinking.**

**His Encounter with Jesus Christ Changed Everything**

**Matthew 16:24-26**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. :25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. :26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

his actions "gave proof" of his decision to follow

**James 1:22**

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

**Levi Began a Walk that Would Take him to Heaven.**

but before he was to arrive in heaven, the Lord had a plan for his life.

**Jeremiah 29:11**

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

**c.) We respond by living v.29**

Then Levi **gave** Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and **others** who sat down with them.

As you read the Bible, you will see that every time someone meets Jesus, they either go away totally new and complete or they go away bitter and defensive.

"Gave"  
poie÷w poieo, poy-eh´ -o;  
to cast out all your line, to pour out the entire contents,  
to hand over everything, to give all,

Then Levi **gave** Him a great feast... *in his house!*

a feast was a big deal = \$\$\$ = a great expense, a great cost

**Mark 12:41-44**

Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many *who were* rich put in much. :42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. :43 So He called His disciples to *Himself* and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those *who* have given to the treasury; :44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

This feast that Levi hosted, was a Deep, True, Expression  
of his Commitment to Jesus Christ.

**Matthew Levi had finally found Real Life**

Matthew Levi saw in Jesus a reason to **Leave All.** - *you need to know that!*  
Matthew Levi saw in Jesus a reason to **Rise Up.** - *you need to know that!*  
Matthew Levi saw in Jesus a reason to **Follow Him.** - *you need to know that!*

**Jesus Christ Gives Us Reason to Follow Him**

**Leave All**  
It's His Person  
*He's excellent in every way*

**Rise Up**  
It's His Promises  
*He keeps His word*

**Follow Him.**  
It's His Power  
*He's our Source for Victory*

**HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS**

**II.) Humbly submit before Him v.30-32**

**a.) In all truthfulness v.30**

And **"their"** scribes and the Pharisees **complained** against His disciples, saying, "Why do **You** eat and drink with **tax collectors** and **sinner**s?"

## These Religious Leaders

had lost their Real Reason for Ministry - Reach The Lost!

### Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

### **They had "Judaized" and "Saddened" the Scriptures**

"They made them exclusive and separate from the common people"

Like Rome,  
That had "Taxed" the People to Death

### Acts 15:10-11

Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? :11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved...

## What's Yoking You

**Erma Bombeck**

wrote about her church when one Sunday morning a little girl was bored so she turned around and began to smile at the people behind her. when her mother figured out what she was doing, mom gripped her and made her turn around and said **"Stop Smiling Like That, We're in Church"**

## We Must Never "Yoke" Church

*that would be to "Christianize" it*

### Matthew 23:15

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one convert, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell than you are yourselves.

### Matthew 23:13

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against people; but you're the ones who will not be going in, - nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

Verse 30

"Why do **You** eat and drink with **tax collectors** and **sinner**s?"

The rip-off Roman tax gougers, the filthy, unwanted, lepers and beggars and harlots and fishermen, and carpenters, and business people, salesmen, unemployed engineers, computer technicians, police officers, politicians, blue collar workers, white collar workers...

**it never stops**

**Ephesians 2:1-4**

And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; :2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: :3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. :4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

**Mark's Account Combined with Luke's**

**Mark 2:16**

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him (Jesus) eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How *is it* that He (Jesus) eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?"

**You Followers of Jesus, You Guys Eat with Losers**

**The Truth is, These Pharisees aren't Telling the Truth.  
they ask the disciples, not Jesus. they have evil on the mind.**

To Eat with Someone in the West Almost Means Nothing  
a restaurant may invite you to sit at a table with strangers. @ Benihana's,  
you sit with you don't know who... not in the middle east.

in the Middle East, eating is personal. It's nearly sacred  
Becoming One with Another

**complained**

goggu/zw gogguzo, gong-good´ -zo  
to verbally attack, to undermine, to seek to divide

**In True Satanic Form, Straight Out of the Garden of Eden...**

"Why do you do this or that, Why?"

These Religious Leaders Go After Jesus' Disciples,  
and they're against tax collectors and sinners...

**so who's left? - - only a very special group**

**b.) In all honesty v.31-32**

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. :32 I have not come to call *the* righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

## the challenge here is this;

will they see what Matthew Levi saw, and change their way of thinking and living by coming to Christ?

Jesus Desires for us to Say,  
I'm Sin Sick Too, I Want Freedom Like Matthew Levi Has

## Jesus, Please Heal Me, I'm Sick

### Psalm 34:18

The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

### Psalm 51:17

The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit.  
A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise

Well, Then "**Why do you eat with Losers**" Question didn't fare so well so they go for the other Food question...  
So they will try that "**Why do you eat at all**" question with hopes of catching Jesus...

## HOW TO FOLLOW JESUS

### III.) *Joyfully receive of Him*

v.33-35

### Luke 5:33-35

Then they said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but **Yours** (disciples) eat and drink?" :34 And He said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? (no!) :35 But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast, - in those days."

### a.) *Jesus frees us from expectations*

Then they said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but **Yours** (disciples) eat and drink

"Hey Jesus  
why aren't your disciples as miserable as ours, I mean, what's with that anyway?"

This is a Perfect Picture of the Difference Between  
Manmade Legalism and God Ordained Freedom

## **John's Disciples, as did John Himself**

spoke to the need of preparing the way of Jesus. they represented repentance and mourning because the King and His Kingdom was Coming, be ready and be prepared...

## **The Pharisees, as did their disciples**

They fasted and prayed for strictly religious reasons. They would announce their fasts. They would pray so that others would hear them.

### **Jesus Said - Matthew 23:14**

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! - for a pretense you make your prayers long. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.

### **Jesus Said - Mark 12:38-39**

Then He said to them in His teaching, "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, *love* greetings in the marketplaces, :39 the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts,

### **Jesus Said - Matthew 6:16-18**

"Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. :17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, :18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

The External, The Temporal, The Physical, Speak of Something Greater.

## **Jesus was Showing Them, He was - The Greater**

### **b.) Jesus gives reason to celebrate v.34**

And He said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? (no!)

Food was a great part of a Joyful Expression;  
and it is still today...

## **I Get Excited about Eating - *it's biblical***

### **Jesus Equates Him Being on Earth as a Celebration.**

#### **Because Joy Filled the Week-Long Wedding Celebrations**

in Israel Back Then. Joy and a Joy-Filled Celebration was Expected



**Galatians 5:22**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

**Psalm 16:11**

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Joy Should Cause You to Stand Out in a Crowd  
(joy is the foundation of worship)  
**King David was The Greatest Worship Leader  
This World has Ever Known**

**1 Chronicles 15:16**

Then David spoke to the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brethren *to be* the singers accompanied by instruments of music, stringed instruments, harps, and cymbals, by raising loud the voice - with resounding joy.

**...and when life's over,  
and we get to the beginning of forever...**

**Jude 1:24**

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory *with exceeding joy*,

**In a Way, Matthew Levi is a Picture of all of Us.**

as a man, he was loved by God.  
as a sinner, he was estranged from God  
as a tax-collector, he was hated by the Jews  
as a Jew, he was hated by the Romans

*as a man, who was away from God, a tax-collector, aiding and abetting the roman empire, he was barred from the synagogue and from public worship. he truly was a fugitive from life.*

**c.) Jesus invites us alongside Him**

**v.35**

But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast, - in those days."

Jesus was Announcing that there will be a "Where" and "When"  
That His Presence will be Gone from Them.

**The Hours Between The Cross and His Resurrection**

**Psalm 30:5**

For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but joy comes in the morning.

**John 14:16-20**

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—  
:17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. :18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. :19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. :20 At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

**There is to be rejoicing and celebration  
in the presence of the Lord!**

**John 15:11**

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.

**Knowing God brings Joy and Excitement!**

**Nehemiah 8:10**

Then Nehemiah said to the people, “Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for *this day is holy* to our Lord. Do not sorrow, ***for the joy of the LORD is your strength.***”

Jjoy = hDw√dRj chedvah, khed-vaw'  
your hearts delight, your gladness, your totality

**The Bible**

**says that our relationship to Jesus Christ is the same as it is between a bride and her groom.  
the church, the bride; Jesus the groom...**

The Church is Currently "Engaged" to Jesus Christ.  
she's getting ready - in every way!

**Jesus is Coming Again**

**Ephesians 5:25-27**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, :26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, :27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**1 Peter 1:5-8**

who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. :6  
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, :7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, :8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you **rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,**

**you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory**  
**"you, in exceeding gladness, and with a deep calm of soul**  
**that cannot be explained, express honor and praise to God"**

**Let's Eat!**

*end*