



Came to Call

Dec. 8, 2019

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Isaiah 9:2 (NIV)

John 8:12 (NIV)

John 3:19–20 (NIV)

Luke 8:17 (NLT)

John 3:16–17 (NIV)

Christmas Core Truth: Jesus came to light the way to call us to Himself.

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, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 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 5:27-29

Telones = Tax Collector

Gabbai - collected property, income and poll taxes

Great Mokhes - collected import and export taxes

Little Mokhes - set up random toll taxes

⇒ **People who were _____ like Jesus liked Jesus.**

⇒ **Jesus liked people who were _____ like him.**

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?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:30-32 (NIV)

Matthew 5:14 & 16 (NIV)

⇒ **Jesus likes it when we like people _____ like us.**

Q—Who are you inviting to your holiday celebration?

ANSWER KEY: nothing, nothing, nothing



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: How to host a “sinner” party

Warm Up: If you were going to plan a holiday party, what would you make sure you included and what type of people would you invite to ensure a good time?

Sermon Response: What is a “take-away” you received from Sunday’s message?

Read: Luke 5:27-32 (NIV)

Discussion:

- What do you know of tax collectors and how they were viewed by society in that day?
- Why do you think Jesus chose Levi? How does Levi show true repentance?
- Levi “got up and began to follow Him (Jesus)”. The remainder of Levi’s (Matthew’s) life would be characterized by following Jesus. What are ways you are encouraged and can encourage others to constantly follow Jesus?
- In verse 30 the Pharisees grumbled that Jesus and His disciples were eating and associating with sinners. How does that relate with us today, in terms of the tension it can bring in a church reaching out to “sinners”?
- At first glance, verses 31-32 can be confusing – wasn’t Jesus called to reach out to all people, not just the sick and sinners? What is the message Jesus is communicating about His purpose of coming to the earth and those willing to respond to Him?
- If Jesus were among you, how do you think he would view the people you have avoided being around, or criticized because they lead a different lifestyle?
- What are some things you learned from Jesus’ interaction with Levi and his friends, as well as the Pharisees who criticized him?
- How can you take what you have learned from this passage and apply it to your life the next time you are in a similar situation? How are we supposed to treat people that are considered outcasts?
- Who are outcasts you know that the group can pray for? How can you reach out to them in the same way Christ reached out to Levi and his friends?

Pray Together (or in smaller micro groups)