

Sermon #11: Controversial Associates

03/28/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 5:27-32)

1. Luke starts this part of his narrative with "After this". The main point of Luke's narrative just prior to this story is summarized in verse 24. What does verse 24 teach us about Jesus?
2. How does knowing what we just learned about Jesus in prior section inform who Jesus chooses to call as a disciple in verse 27? (Note who tax collectors were associated with based on verse 30).
3. What does Levi's response in verse 28 communicate about the authority of Jesus' call on a person's life?
4. Knowing what we do about the reputation of tax collectors, how would you visualize the great feast and large company that Levi invited to eat with Jesus?
5. How do the religious Pharisees and scribes respond to Jesus and His disciples association with Levi and friends?
6. If you were to characterize today's church, which would most represent us in this story: Jesus & the disciples OR the Pharisees & scribes?
7. Which would you say best describes you and your behavior?
8. According to verse 31, why does Jesus say He spends time with people like Levi & his friends?
9. How can you now connect what we learned about Jesus from question 1 and what we learn of His mission in verse 32?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Let's be honest, we Christians frequently avoid spending time around "sinners" because we perceive it costs us something to do so. And it just may. However, have you ever pondered that every sinner Jesus spent time with and called into a relationship with Himself cost Him infinitely? In order for a sinner to be made righteous in the presence of God, Jesus had to pay the cost of their sin. Every sinner He pursued made the price He paid greater. He pursued anyway. He pursued you at great cost. Will you pursue others for His sake?

- How does seeing Jesus' love & passionate pursuit of sinners move you to do the same?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. If we, as the church, are to take on Jesus' mission as we see it in today's passage, how well would you say we are doing?
2. Do you live your life in such a manner as to spend time with people who are in need of forgiveness and repentance or do you simply spend time grumbling about all the "sinners" in this world?
3. What change in attitude or actions do you need to make in order to embrace the mission we have as followers of Jesus?
4. What is one change you could make that would result in you spending time with people far from Jesus?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.