

## **An Invitation Like No Other (Luke 5:27-32)**

An ordinary and unlikely person receives an extraordinary invitation that changes the course of their life forever. Unable to keep this news to themselves, an enormous party is thrown and all their friends are invited. As they feast together, a staggering truth is revealed with implications reaching far beyond the people in that room.

### **1. An Ordinary and Unlikely Person (Luke 5:27)**

Levi was deeply despised by his community. When Jesus saw him, he didn't avoid him but met him right where he was. God takes the rebels, the nobodies, the broken – and He richly lavishes His grace on them that they might be a display of His grace and mercy!

### **2. An Extraordinary Invitation (Luke 5:27-28)**

Levi left everything and followed Him. This would have been a tremendous sacrifice because of his great wealth. When your heart begins to perceive the worth of Jesus, there's simply no sacrifice too great that can be made for Him. Following Jesus is to treasure Him above all, and to live in relationship with Him.

### **3. An Enormous Party (Luke 5:29)**

The first thing Levi does as a new follower of Jesus is to throw a feast for Jesus and invite his friends and colleagues to meet Him. His heart immediately went out to those with whom he had done life with. Jesus is too good to be kept to ourselves! We bring others to meet our Lord.

### **4. An Open Invitation (Luke 5:31-32)**

In response to the Pharisee's criticism, Jesus responds with an open invitation that extends far beyond the people in that room. The implication is for us today. Jesus has come for those who humbly recognize their spiritual sickness, but He resists those who pridefully think they're okay. God didn't leave us in our mess. He gave His only Son.

**Questions (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)**

1. What stood out to you the most from this message?
2. How can we fight against becoming insulated from the world, neglecting our mission to preach the Gospel and make disciples?
3. What are ways we can invite the people in our lives to meet Jesus? How can we hinder this?
4. What are some practical outworkings of following Jesus in our day-to-day life?
5. What kind of wrong examples of following Jesus have you encountered?
6. What kind of implications does Jesus' staggering statement have on our lives? *"Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance"*
7. What does this whole encounter reveal to you about Jesus?
8. In what ways can we sometimes be more like the Pharisees in this text?

Pray that God would soften our hearts for the people around us, that He would remind us of what He did for us, and give us a supernatural love and compassion for those we tend to avoid. Pray that God would help us rest in the Gospel and treasure Him above all.