



friendship
community church

Book of Luke Series

Luke 5:27-39

Week of April 7-13, 2019

Take time to ask group members, "What is God teaching you during these 45 Days of Faithfulness emphasis?" Remind them it is okay to share both the challenges and the victories. Remind them that today can be a reset if they need it.

Share something from your own experience that points to the faithfulness of God.

"After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" And Jesus answered them, "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.""

Luke 5:27-32 ESV

Jesus, friend of sinners . . .

Matthew 9:9 is a parallel verse Levi=Matthew

First use of the word "disciple" is used here. Here is a link to an article about disciple that you might find helpful in your own study - <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-a-disciple>

As believers, what do we do with the "friend of sinners" in our own walk and realm of influence? Being in the world but not of it? Are there other instances in Scripture where we see Jesus being a friend to sinners?

Being a friend to sinners is more than just "making nice" and accepting people and their sin. How unloving would it be for us as believers to know that Jesus is the only way to the Father and choose not to share that truth?

Jesus, friend of sinners, and . . .

A physician of sinners.

Jesus does not love the sin. Sin cost Him His life. Jesus does not love you just the way you are. He loves you enough to call us to repentance.

Mark Twain is quoted as saying, A true friend stabs you in the front.

Who are those people in your life that take the risk to be honest with you so that you will become more like Christ?

Not so fast . . . Luke 5:33-39

"And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and

puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

The last verse is irony - the good old days over the new ones. Jesus is calling out the religious elite here. He is saying, "You want the new as long as it fits into your God box." As long as God works within your established framework and stays within your boundaries then you are okay with God. What Jesus is saying that He has come to bust up the old wineskins. Jesus in essence was telling them that He was coming to fulfill the old law and blow them away with His transforming power.

The Pharisees were longing for the old rules and regulations- they wanted to maintain power and control.

What are some old things you miss and don't like the new? Most of the time our preferences take precedent over trusting the One who makes all things new. Since new things do not fit well into old "containers", the truth of Paul's words in *2 Corinthians 5:17* bring beautiful clarity - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Who is God? He is a physician. He is THE physician.

What does it mean for us? We need healing.

What are some things you need healing of today?

What is keeping you from allowing God to bring about healing in your life?

Jesus is the new and final rescue plan of God.

Some questions that Michael posed at the end of the sermon –

Who do I need to be friends with? Who are sinners who need Jesus that I know of?

Who do I need to call to repentance?

What old way of salvation (means of escape) do I need to give up to fill myself with Jesus? (False hopes - media, traditions, social media, self-help, alcohol, drugs)

What do I cherish more than God?

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.