

When Jesus Meets Sinners

Luke 5:27-32

Unexpected focus by Jesus...

- heals man with evil spirit
- calls fishermen as disciples
- heals man with leprosy
- heals a paralyzed man

He proved He can forgive sins

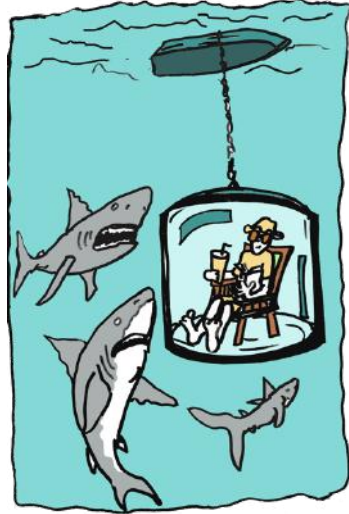


Luke 5:27-32

The Big Idea

Jesus calls sinners, to repentance

- Religious leaders got it very wrong
- Jesus had a very different approach



Core Value: Superabounding Grace and Complete Obedience to Christ

We are committed to building a community that practices superabounding grace while calling our people to complete obedience to Christ.

In **superabounding grace**, we welcome people to come as they [we] are and we will go to people where they are, and we are committed to building relationships with people as Jesus did, including with those who are often judged by others, just as Jesus welcomed sinners, prostitutes, and tax collectors (Luke 5:29-32).

We also **call our people to complete obedience to Jesus** in all parts of our lives, conforming to His call to holiness and to sacrificial service (Luke 5:27-28; 9:23-26). And we recognize that this road to complete obedience is lifelong and requires grace, patience, perseverance, and mutual encouragement (Hebrews 10:23-25; 12:7-13).

“The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. **But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.**” Romans 5:20

“But just as he who called you is holy, so **be holy in all you do**; for it is written: ‘**Be holy, because I am holy.**’” 1 Peter 1:15-16

What are we to do?

Embrace superabounding grace and complete obedience

For us

Toward others

For each of us to consider:

- What makes me hesitant to provide a warm and honoring welcome?
- What does that reveal about my view of people?
- Does this match the teaching & model of Jesus?

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. In what ways have you experienced the rejection that the Pharisees showed to tax collectors? How is that different from what Jesus showed? How has that affected you?
2. What makes you hesitant to provide a warm and honoring welcome to some other people?
In what ways are you more like the Pharisees than like Jesus?
3. How do you need the superabounding grace of Jesus?
How have you experienced it?
4. Where is God calling you into complete obedience to Christ today?
What steps will you take?

Conversation starters this week

- What is your impression of how Jesus responded to people we might judge?
- How does that compare with what you see among Christians?

