



Luke 5:27-32

A New Philosophy of Ministry

Jesus Targeted the Needy

Jesus' Ministry To the Lost

The old institutions would not accept the people Jesus was reaching and training. For example, Jesus chose a tax collector to be His disciple. Tax collectors betrayed themselves to their foreigner oppressors (Roman government) and exploited their own poor people (Jewish). The Pharisees grumbled at the fact that Jesus ate with tax-gatherers and sinners. They as representatives of the old order could not tolerate reaching out to "sinners."



Our Ministry To the Lost

We don't care about clothes, race, kinds of illness, reputations, political affiliations, nor even gross sins that a person might be involved in.

We are interested in people who sense their needs. We are interested in helping the "sick" and the sinful. We believe that no one's past disqualifies him from following Jesus. This perspective instantly opens the gates to all peoples of all nations. A sense of need is more important than economical rewards in directing our ministries. We do not pride ourselves with whom we associate and so pretend to be righteous, but we humbly serve the needy and so show ourselves to be righteous.

We must refuse to judge people by outward standards whereby we might reject those who sense their needs. Don't go by your outward standards in judging the responsiveness of a group or area. Instead discern their hearts by the degree they can admit to their sin.

31 And Jesus answered and said to them,
"It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Questions & Discussion

* What did it mean that Levi "left everything?"

* Why do you think Jesus wanted Levi a man with a bad reputation to follow Him?

* What are your difficulties in reaching out to "sinners?"

Concerns

- * But what about being overwhelmed by the poor?
- * What about the reputation of our church?
- * What about our pursuit of righteousness if we associate with sinners?

Levi left his job along with his oppressive behavior, theft, haughty attitude and other evil behavior associated with his job. Jesus meant more.

Jesus could see beyond the past of people. he saw what He and His Word could do a person's heart.

Going beyond our prejudices and really sensing the identity of the real person.