

Luke 5:27-32**2-26-06*****“Is there a Doctor in the House?”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. **Tax Collector** – “A man walked into the tax collector’s office & sat down & smiled at everyone. “*May I help you?*” said the clerk in charge. “No,” said the man, “I just wanted to meet the people I have been working for all these years.”

2. IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE? (27-32)

- 2.1. **JESUS AT THE I.R.S.!** (27,28)
- 2.2. **Tax office** – This was a tax station in Capernaum on an important trade route. Tax collectors were also used to excise taxes for port duties & fishing tolls.
- 2.2.1. Traveling from the Roman province to the N/E the 1st town a traveler would come to was Capernaum. Thus the tax office was placed on this busy thoroughfare.
- 2.3. **There were 2 kinds of taxes in those days:** Stated Taxes & other Duties.
- 2.3.1. **Stated Taxes** – **Poll Tax**(all men 14-65 & women 12-65 had to pay just for being alive!); **Ground Tax**(1/10th of all grain; & 1/5th all wine/oil produced; also there was a Tax on fish[which is what Capernaum was famous for]); **Income Tax**(1% of one’s annual income).¹
- 2.3.2. **Duties** – Here was the most opportunity for abuse.
- 2.3.2.1. **These were taxes for:** using roads, harbor docks, sales tax, import/export duties. A Tax was even paid on a cart...**each wheel was taxed!**²
- 2.3.2.2. If you didn’t have the money to pay **NO PROBLEM!**...they also loaned money...at an exorbitant rate!
- 2.4. **Tax collectors** – Were outcasts from society.
- 2.4.1. **The name Tax collector always linked sinners** (sinners/harlots)
- 2.4.2. **They collaborated w/a foreign government.**
- 2.4.2.1. The Romans collected their taxes through a system called **“Tax Farming”** (like our Franchises today)
- 2.4.2.2. They would pay the government for the right to collect taxes, **& then** collected far more than was really due.
- 2.4.2.3. **Known as “leeches”** (Lockyer; All the Men of the Bible pg.232)
- 2.4.2.3.1. **“Gorging themselves w/money in the process of gathering money for the Caesars...”**

¹ William L. Lane

² Kent Hughes; pg.68

- 2.4.3. They were swindlers, money-hungry, & despised.
- 2.4.4. Barclay said, “So **rare** was honesty in the profession that a Roman writer said he once saw a monument to **an honest Tax collector!**”
- 2.4.5. **See** – What John the Bap said about them **Lk.3:12,13**.
- 2.4.6. They had daily contact w/all kinds of other “*unclean*” people.
- 2.4.7. It was bad enough when Gentiles collected taxes for Rome, but when Jews did it, the stigma was even greater.
- 2.4.8. “**Sinners**” here means the *common people* who paid little heed to the **religious scruples** of the Pharisees.³
- 2.4.9. But Praise God...we have a God who **cares** about the **despised!**
- 2.5. **Follow me** – (Levi = join or adhesion) His original name linked with the Tribe(Levi), yet he couldn’t have gotten farther away!
 - 2.5.1. No longer a patriot of his country. Often would have to work on the Sabbath, thus “forbidden to enter the synagogue”.
 - 2.5.2. Once **joined** to this foreign power & to crooked ways, now *Levi, join Me!* (did Jesus change his name, or did he change it himself?)
 - 2.5.2.1. Matthew = *Gift of Jehovah!*
 - 2.5.3. **Join** me in the way, & **travel** with me. - He asked for **complete submission**, but he asked for it, in **fellowship**. - Come & travel with me; take my road, be My **friend**, be my **companion**. (Morgan)
- 2.6. (28) **100% commitment!**
 - 2.6.1. Remember the **Chicken** & the **Pig** walking by a restaurant & noticed a charity was going on, serving Bacon & Egg breakfast. The Chicken said, “let’s go in & give to the charity”. The Pig said, “No way! For you it’s only a **contribution**, but for me it’s a **commitment!!!**”
 - 2.6.2. James & John, Peter & Andrew could always go back to **fishing** ...*as they did later!*
 - 2.6.2.1. **But not for Matthew, he burned his bridges completely!**
 - 2.6.2.2. **He staked everything on Christ!** [God never goes back on the man who stakes his all on Him]
 - 2.6.2.3. **Matthew left everything...except his Pen & Ink!!!**
 - 2.6.2.4. Writing one of the most important documents of all time!
- 2.7. **THE DOCTOR MAKES A HOUSE CALL!** (29-32)
- 2.8. **THE FEAST!** (29)
 - 2.8.1. Interesting we don’t hear Jesus say, “*NO Levi! get away from your old friends, they’ll take you down!*”

³ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.22

- 2.8.1.1. Yes, there is some things to be wise to. If you're struggling with drugs, alcohol, etc, then you don't want to place yourself in situations where you will stumble back to your old ways.
- 2.8.1.2. But wouldn't you agree, what we are most comfortable with is **getting them away from** all their friends & sometimes even some family, to "**protect & preserve them!**"
- 2.8.1.3. But doesn't this seem like a good plan for new believers to follow? To introduce their old friends to their **New Friend** before they drop them as friends?
- 2.8.2. Was Jesus "there" but kind of stand-off-ish? No way! He was reclining with them & they were with Him! (Mark 2:15)
 - 2.8.2.1. Sinners, very comfortable around Him! [That's my Jesus!]
- 2.9. **A 3-Fold Feast:**
 - 2.9.1. **[1] A Jubilee Feast** – to commemorate his translation into a new life
 - 2.9.1.1. There is the **natural response** of a truly regenerated soul!...**To honor Christ!**
 - 2.9.1.2. Lk. 15:32[NIV] "**But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.**"
 - 2.9.2. **[2] A Farewell Feast** – A public confession of surrender to the call of Christ.
 - 2.9.3. **[3] A Evangelistic Feast** - Levi invites some of his business associates to meet Jesus.
 - 2.9.3.1. Great idea to do before "becoming a missionary, or going on staff at a church, or para-church org."
 - 2.9.3.2. Levi knew many would come to his house to meet Christ, who would **not go** to the synagogue to hear Him!
 - 2.9.3.3. Am I reaching to far to say that it is doubtless many tax collectors & sinners learned that day that **Christ did not despise them.** 😊
- 2.10. **Q: Are you too good** to dine w/your pagan family members, or friends?
 - 2.10.1. But, uncle **Larry** the lush will be there; sleazy aunt **Sally**; bad mouth brother **Bob**; snotty sister **Suzy**.
 - 2.10.1.1. Surely I shouldn't subject my children to that!
 - 2.10.1.2. Join the real world!...Teach your children through it (of course there is a line to draw!)
- 2.11. **THE GRUMBLERS! (30)**
 - 2.11.1. Yeah! They finally found something they could grumble about regarding Him!

- 2.12. **Q:** We would never see ourselves as Pharisees but the question is, **do we act like them?**
- 2.12.1. We seem to arrange our lives so that we are with non-believers as little as possible!
- 2.12.1.1. We attend Christian bible studies where almost everyone is Christian, we play **sports** with Christians, eat **dinner** w/Christians, go to Christians **doctors**, call Christian **plumbers**, & even take our pets to Christian **vets!**
- 2.12.1.2. **We are to “keep the faith”, but not from others!**
- 2.12.2. Listen carefully to Jesus’ prayer, “**My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.**” Jn.17:15(niv)
- 2.12.2.1. Not to remove them **from** danger & opposition but to preserve them **in** the midst of conflict!
- 2.12.3. History records that when **Oliver Cromwell** ruled England, the nation experienced a crisis: They ran out of silver & could not mint any coins. Cromwell sent his soldiers to the Cathedral to see if any silver was available. They reported back that the only silver was the **statues of the saints**, to which Cromwell replied, “**Melt down the saints & get them back into circulation.**” 😊
- 2.12.3.1. Sometimes God must do that w/us!
- 2.13. **THE REASON HE CAME!** (31,32)
- 2.14. While the **Scribes & Pharisees** stood on their lil *soap boxes of contempt*, looking down their *noses of neglect*; **Jesus** donned his *white Doctors smock* & went to work in a *hospital of hurting souls!*
- 2.14.1. Luke presents Jesus as the “**friend of sinners**”.⁴
- 2.14.1.1. Since, Jesus freely associated w/all kinds of people. This placed him on a collision course w/the Pharisees.
- 2.14.2. Interesting, Luke shares with us a story(Lk.19) of **one more** Tax Collector, who was “*vertically challenged*”(Zaccheus) in which Jesus doesn’t wait for the invitation to his house, but invites Himself over...immediately!
- 2.14.3. Jesus used the **analogy** of the **Physician** who went where the sick people were. (Isn’t that where you’d expect to find a doctor, working...around sick people???)
- 2.14.3.1. **Q:** Wouldn’t it be odd to find a doctor sitting around talking to all the friends & family of the sick people in the waiting room, **instead of caring for the patients?**
- 2.14.3.2. **Why** send a **doctor** to someone who is **not sick?**
Why offer **financial assistance** to a man who is **not poor?**
Why throw a **life preserver** to a man **not drowning?**

⁴ Ibid.; pg.21

- 2.14.4. Jesus rejects their **separatism** & expressed his desire to reach out to those in spiritual need.⁵
 2.14.4.1. “But these are **the very people** I’ve come to save!”
- 2.14.5. True Christianity has always broken down *economic, social, ethnic, & racial* barriers.
- 2.14.6. Q: Were there any present who were “well” that day?
- 2.14.7. Q: Were there any present that **didn’t** need a physician?
- 2.14.7.1. No, but a doctor isn’t going to try to **examine** or **work on** someone who **says** they’re well.
- 2.14.7.2. **The Pharisees** could not be **made well** until they would **admit** they were **spiritually sick!**
- 2.14.8. The real condition of mankind...we are **diseased!**
 2.14.8.1. We have **moral maladies!**
 2.14.8.2. In **Creole** (Haiti) we ask, “*Koman ou-ye*”. They respond “*Tre byen, or pa pi mal, or M-malad!*” (very fine, so/so, I’m sick)
 2.14.8.2.1. Mankind should answer *M-malad*, so we might be healed by the great physician.
 2.14.8.3. So with these *moral maladies*, the **soul** has its **disorders**.
 2.14.8.4. We are **not degrading human nature**. We realize we are the workmanship of God, made in His image. So physically & intellectually, no problem, it is only **morally** that is an issue.
- 2.14.9. **Read Hos.6:1,2** – Sometimes the Physician “**Hurts to Heal!**”
 2.14.9.1. **Example:** My Broken arm reset by the doc in 4th grade.
- 2.15. According to our text, there is hope for even **the worst** of patients!!!
- 2.16. Centuries ago a number of workmen were seen dragging a great marble block into the city of Florence, Italy. It had come from the famous marble quarry of Carrara, & was intended to be made into a statue of a great OT prophet. But it contained imperfections, & when the great sculptor **Donatello** saw it, he refused it at once. So there it lay in the cathedral yard, a **useless block**. 1 day **another sculptor** caught sight of the flawed block. But as he examined it, there rose in his mind something of immense beauty, & he resolved to sculpt it. For 2 years the artist worked feverishly on the work of art. Finally, on Jan.25, 1504, the greatest artists of the day assembled to see what he had made of the **despised & rejected** block. Among them were Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, & Pietro Perugino, the teacher of Raphael. As the **veil dropped** to the floor, the statue was met w/a chorus of praise. **It was a masterpiece!** The succeeding centuries have confirmed that judgment. Michelangelo’s **David** is 1 of the greatest works of art the world has ever known.⁶
- 2.17. Jesus saw in the flawed life of Levi... **a Matthew!** (writer/ evangelist)
 2.17.1. Jesus **sees** in us what no one else **sees!**

⁵ Willmington’s Bible Handbook; Libronix.

⁶ *ibid*; pg.69,70

- 2.17.2. Jesus **wanted** the man no one else **wanted**!
- 2.17.3. **Levi** received a name change to **Matthew** ("*Gift of God*")
- 2.18. Matthew was not only called to leave everything, but also to find a friend/companion for the coming pathway! Fellowship was offered!
 - 2.18.1. **Follow me!** – young & old; men & women;...will you follow Him?
- 2.19. **End Prayer:** Lord, melt us back down & get us back into circulation!