

Dinner With Jesus:

Dinner with Levi

(NIV) Luke 5:27-28

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, **28** and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

(NIV) Luke 5:29-30

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. **30** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

(NIV) Matt 9:11-12

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **12** On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **13** But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'^[a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

"In first century Palestinian Judaism the class system was enforced rigorously. It was legally forbidden to mingle with sinners who were outside the law. Table fellowship with beggars, tax collectors and prostitutes was a religious, social and cultural taboo...even in the near east today, for an Orthodox Jew to say 'I would like to have dinner with you' is a metaphor implying 'I would like to enter into friendship with you'" - **Brennan Manning *The Ragamuffin Gospel***

Jesus comes with the MISSION in mind when He chooses to come and have a meal with Levi, the tax collector.

(NIV) Hosea 6:4-6

4 "What can I do with you, Ephraim?

What can I do with you, Judah?

Your love is like the morning mist,

like the early dew that disappears.

5 Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets,

I killed you with the words of my mouth—

then my judgments go forth like the sun.^[a]

6 For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,

and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Jesus' command to Levi of "Follow Me" is a statement of BELONGING.

(NLT) Rom 8:1-2

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 And because you belong to him, the power[a] of the life-giving Spirit has freed you[b] from the power of sin that leads to death.

Who are your TAX COLLECTORS and SINNERS?

“When you are UNCOMFORTABLE with people who are DIFFERENT than you, it says more about your INSECURITY than it does about your SPIRITUALITY.” - Kevin Queen

If you want a real test of where your allegiance lies, join a HOMEGROUP.

If we’re unwilling to bear the weight of other people’s MESSES, we have CHEAPENED the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

(NLT) 1 Cor 13:4-7

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

Main to do:

Join a homegroup and go consistently.