
Levi — Luke 5:27-32; Zacchaeus — Luke 19:1-10

Levi — The love of Christ compels me to party with those far from God.

What is a tax collector?

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." Luke 5:27 (ESV)

Jesus took the initiative. I must take the initiative.

And he said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. Luke 5:27-28 (ESV)

People that will never attend church will attend a party.

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. Luke 5:29 (ESV)

Religious people will grumble.

And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Luke 5:30 (ESV)

Remember a good doctor doesn't quarantine himself from the sick. He helps the sick.

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 5:31-32 (ESV)

Zacchaeus — The love of Christ compels me to eat with those that will never attend church.

What is a chief tax collector?

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. Luke 19:1-4 (ESV)

Jesus took the initiative. I must take the initiative.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. Luke 19:5-6 (ESV)

Religious people will grumble.

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Luke 19:7 (ESV)

Sometimes a meal is a better way to reach someone than a church.

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. Luke 19:8-9 (ESV)

True repentance is coupled with a desire for restoration.

How did Jesus get a rich man to the kingdom of God?

For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." Luke 18:25 (ESV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 (ESV)

Did Zacchaeus experience lasting change?

Applications

1. Jesus loved the people most religious folks ignored. The love of Christ compels me to do the same.
2. Jesus took the initiative to build friendships with people far from God. The love of God compels me to take the initiative.
 1. Join a class at the YMCA to meet people.
 2. Eat lunch in the break room to develop friendships with your coworkers.
 3. Get involved in Kiwanis or other public service organizations around town.
 4. Volunteer at the school.
 5. Hold a BBQ for your neighbors.
 6. Host a community garden.
3. Throw parties where your Christian friends and people far from God can mix.
 1. Throw a block party and have church friends help and attend.
 2. Get a big screen TV. Serve nachos and wings. Invite your neighbors and church friends over to watch sports.
 3. Coach a local sports team with your church friends.
4. Invite people to a meal in your home that would never come to church.
5. Expect religious people will grumble.



Compelled To Befriend



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