

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 5:27-39.**
- B. Of all people! Levi the tax collector was converted! He had left everything to follow Jesus.
- C. Matthew was so excited about his new calling that he gave a banquet in honor of X.
- D. But the Pharisees did not understand about the change in Levi. In response, Jesus gives four very powerful illustrations as to what He was doing.

## I. JESUS IS THE PHYSICIAN WHO CAME FOR SINNERS.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 5:27-32.**
- B. The question of 5:30 is, "Why do you eat with tax-gatherers and sinners?" It would seem that Matthew was both, a Jewish traitor who worked for the Romans, and was also dishonest in doing it!
- C. A meal means more in the culture of the middle east than it does in this country. To eat a meal together was to form a covenant, to bind yourselves as friends and allies. This is the reason for the strong warning in 2Jn. 9-11 and 1Cor. 5:9-11. On the positive side, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper; to bind Xians together as friends and allies while remembering X's death.
- D. Jesus told the Pharisees, "it is only the sick who need a doctor."
- E. Everyone is spiritually sick w/sin (Rom. 3:10, 23), but only a few acknowledge it! Levi admitted he is sick in sin, and that Jesus was the physician who could heal him. The Pharisees did not see themselves as needing a physician, and that was their main problem.
- F. Jesus is a great doctor:
  - 1. He makes a perfect diagnosis of the problem.
  - 2. He effects a perfect cure for the problem.
  - 3. He pays the bill Himself!
- G. There are only two kinds of patients that Jesus cannot heal:
  - 1. The individual who **will not admit he/she is sick.**  
(The first thing an alcoholic must do is admit they are an alcoholic, etc.)
  - 2. The individual who **will not trust Him for the cure.**

## II. JESUS IS THE BRIDEGROOM WHO CAME TO BRING JOY.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 5:33-35.**
- B. The Pharisees have another question, "Why don't your disciples fast and pray like John's?"
- C. Jesus replied in the metaphor of a wedding feast. In no way is the celebration of a wedding a time for sorrow, fasting, and prayer; it is a time of rejoicing.
- D. Jesus implies that He will not always be with His disciples (His ascension), so while He is with them, sinners are coming to repentance and both are reasons for happiness.
- E. The Xian life is supposed to be a wedding feast, not a funeral.

## III. JESUS CAME TO BRING IN THE NEW, NOT PATCH UP THE OLD.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 5:36-39.**
- B. Jesus then told the Pharisees a parable by which they might further understand what was going on with Him and Matthew.
- C. **The garment (5:36).**
  - 1. When an old garment tears, it is foolish to try and mend it with new material. To do such would ruin both pieces of cloth.
  - 2. Jesus was not trying to "fix" the Law (the old garment, that had been torn by the Jews who failed to keep it properly).
  - 3. Rather, Jesus came to give us a whole new garment to wear (the gospel).

4. Too many people have a patchwork life with a little bits of self, little bits of X, and little bits of everything else all over themselves.
  5. Jesus wants to give you a brand new spiritual robe to wear.
- D. **The wineskins (5:37-39).**
1. In our present day, w/glass, plastic, and aluminum, putting a beverage in a wineskin just doesn't exist!
  2. But the same point made about the patch in the garment, is true w/the wineskins. One doesn't put new wine in an old skin because the old skin will break.
  3. The spiritual application is that it is fruitless to try and find salvation by breathing new life into following the Law. The new wineskin is the gospel, and only in that will one find life.
  4. Verse 39 speaks of the reluctance of people to change. They are so used to their old way of doing things, they will not accept or practice something new. Such was the case of the Pharisees.
  5. Spiritually speaking, one must discard the old, and cling to the new.

### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Jesus taught three things in this episode:
  1. We must realize we are spiritually sick if we ever hope to be well.
  2. He came to bring us great joy in our relationship with Him.
  3. We must throw away the old life in order to enjoy the blessings of the new.
- B. The admonition is simple: admit you are spiritually sick with sin; completely discard the old life and all its sinful ways, and you may have great joy in your relationship with God through X.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.