



THE AUTHENTIC JESUS | PARTY THROWER (5)

February 5, 2023

Luke 5:27-35

PURPOSE

To discover and experience Jesus Christ in our midst
To cultivate mutually encouraging relationships
To participate in God's mission to the world

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

10 MIN

What elements make up a good party?

WORSHIP

10 MIN

OPENING PRAYER

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER—Psalm 103:1-12

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,**
³Who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
⁴**Who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**
⁵Who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
⁶**The LORD works righteousness and justice
for all who are oppressed.**
⁷He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
⁸**The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
¹⁰**He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

SCRIPTURE READING

²⁷After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." ²⁸And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹And 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. ³⁰And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³²I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

³³And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." ³⁴And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? ³⁵The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

BIBLE STUDY **Summary and Connection**

40 MIN

For the past few weeks at Central we have been looking at select New Testament passages to discover *The Authentic Jesus*. So far in our discovery, we have seen Jesus as the scandalizer, the myth buster, the announcer of the good news, and the community builder.

In his sermon titled "Community Builder," Jason focused on three essential elements of thriving Christian community—worship, fellowship, and mission. Jason pointed us to the essence of true worship—a worship characterized by awe and transcendence and intimacy and grace. Furthermore, Jason talked about how it is impossible for us to follow Jesus on our own. Jason asserted that there is no participation in Jesus without the participation in Jesus' community and mission. The three classification of church environment—foyer, living room, and kitchen—helps us to introspect where we are, and challenges us to move from being mere consumers to active promoters of God's love and grace in the lives of others. Finally, the real substance of the Christian life lies in our participation in the mission of Christ—Jesus draws us in worship, draws us into fellowship, and sends us out into mission. Jason ended his sermon with a personal appeal, challenging us to introspect where we are individually in terms of worship, fellowship, and mission.

This week's study is based on Luke 5:27-35. In this passage we see the radical, and the upside down nature of the Christian community. Luke presents Jesus as the party thrower—the one who invites and feasts with the tax collectors, outcasts, and sinners. In chapter 5, Luke highlights the pattern of Jesus' ministry. In 5:12-26, we see Jesus reaching out to those on the outer margins of the society—the leper and the paralyzed man—by ending their suffering and restoring them physically. In this section, we once again see Jesus reaching out to the scandalized—tax collectors and the social outcasts—by calling them into his community and celebrating their inclusion by a great feast. This passage highlights the radically inclusive nature of the Christian faith—anyone, absolutely anyone, who responds to the call of Jesus can receive the blessing of Jesus' fellowship, and can partake in the community of Jesus, his church.

Furthermore, in this passage, Luke contrasts the ministry of Jesus with the ministry of the Pharisees and the Scribes. Jesus, as the great physician, moves towards the physically and spiritually sick people. He offers healing, forgiveness by physical restoration, and spiritual reconciliation of the relationship between God the Father and his people. In sheer contrast, the Pharisees promote spiritual and social separatism by their religious austerity and ritual and moral cleanliness standards. For the Pharisees, Jesus sharing the meal with tax collectors and sinners meant that he was ritually and morally unclean by way of association,

and therefore was unfit to be a Rabbi. For the Scribes—the social elites of the day—Jesus breached the boundaries of social class, and thereby discredited himself as an authority figure. In this passage, Luke categorically shows us that Jesus the great physician healed and welcomed the ones who were aware of their sickness, but the ones who claimed to be healthy were in fact the sickest, and therefore could never participate in the community of Jesus.

1. Looking at the Bible

What does the text say? What according to you is the theme of this passage?

- In this passage Luke highlights the distinct pattern of Jesus' ministry. What is the pattern of Jesus' ministry, and how is it distinct from the ministry of the Pharisees?
- In verse 29 Luke talks about a great feast, and specifically mentions the identities of the ones invited to the feast. What is the social, and spiritual significance of this feast? What can we learn about the Christian community from this feast?

2. Looking at Jesus

At Central we believe that all of Scripture points to Jesus. In other words, Jesus is the theological center of the Bible. Every passage not only points to Jesus, but the grand narrative of the Bible also finds its fulfillment in the person and work of Jesus.

- What can we learn about the character of Jesus from this passage?
- In verse 34 Jesus responds to the Pharisees by posing a question: "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?" What does it mean to relate to Jesus as the bridegroom?

3. Looking at Our Hearts

- Where do you see yourself with respect to your relationship with the bridegroom—in a season of fasting, or a season of feasting? What are the practical ways to grow in spiritual feasting?
- In his sermon "The Community Builder," Jason talks about the three classifications of a church environment—foyer, living room, and kitchen. How would you describe each environment? Where do you see yourself right now in your church life, and what practical measures do you need to employ to move to the next level?

4. Looking at Our World

- How does this passage both challenge us to examine our hearts, and give us hope and confidence to be God's instruments of grace in this city?

SHARING Share your prayer requests, thoughts, hopes and fears for the coming week, and as you do
15 MIN consider how this passage might give light to what you are sharing.

KINGDOM Pray that we would see ourselves called by God.
PRAYER Include other prayer requests.
15 MIN

SENDING God's word is a lamp to our feet. Christ's teachings are a light to our path. May God's word
5 MIN take root in our lives. May Christ's love nourish and sustain us. Amen.