**“Healing & the Wrong Crowd”**

Going deeper in Luke 5:27-32

**INTRODUCTION** – Prior to this Jesus has been baptized and the Holy Spirit has descended on him. Then he went into the wilderness to be tempted. He then returned to Galilee and has been teaching in synagogues and word has spread about him through the whole countryside. Next in Nazareth he has read the Isaiah passage about the messiah and has told those present that this has been fulfilled in him and that he has been anointed to preach the good news. Following this He has driven out an evil spirit and healed many. He then calls Simon Peter to follow him. He cures a man with leprosy and a paralytic. Then this happens:

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 27 After this he went out and he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax booth collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, “Come follow me.” 28 He did it. He left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi put on a great banquet for Jesus in his own home. There were a lot tax collectors and others feasting together. 30 But the Pharisees and the religion scholars came to his disciples greatly offended. They said, “Why does he eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 Jesus answered them, “Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? 32 I am not here to call those who think they are righteous, but those who know they need to change from the inside out.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Given all that has happened as explained in the introduction what do you think motivated Levi to follow Jesus?

2. Levi as a tax collector would have been the equivalent of a corrupt IRS agent. Why would Jesus think he would be a good disciple?

3. What do you think the other disciples felt about him?

4. Why do you think Jesus choose to go to Levi’s party with sinners? Where might the Lord Jesus be calling you to hang out?

5. Why do you think Levi invited members of his “old group” to this party? Who is the Lord calling you to invite to your home? How about inviting them to your small group?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Pray for those you know who don’t know the joy of following Jesus.

\*Ask the Lord about who He is calling you to invite into your inner circle.

\*Thank the Lord that He has invited you into His inner circle.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Jesus offers life and healing for all who will turn to him. Matthew/Levi is so excited about this great news that he invites all his friends from the wrong side of the tracks to a banquet with Jesus. Will you follow the Spirit of God’s leading and reach out to those others who may be outcasts this week?