

LUKE - Part 22 – He calls, heals, loves and fills me

Luke 5:27-39

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.

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’?”

*31 Jesus answered them, **“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”***

33 They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

34 Jesus answered, “Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? ³⁵ But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

36 He told them this parable: “No-one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.

*37 And **no-one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.***

39 And no-one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’ ”

1 Timothy 1:15-17

*15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.** ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen*

We see in Luke 5 how Jesus steps out into the world to call the worst of sinners, because in His own words **“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”** He came not **“to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”** As Jesus steps into the brokenness of our lives He calls us to follow Him, saying you are going to live for something far greater than yourself, you are going to live for me. As Jesus goes into the brokenness He makes the unclean, clean, the unclean doesn't make the clean unclean. To do this Jesus steps out into a very broken world and He **calls**, He **heals**, He **loves** and He **fills** us.

Jesus is calling us to do the same. To be a community not for the righteous but for sinners to come to repentance. To do this, the wineskin has got to change! This means that how we live personally and as a community needs to change. We cannot allow the previous move of God to dictate how we do Church.

We need to rediscover the radical doctrine of the priesthood of all believers which means that every person in Christ, including you and me, is empowered by the same Spirit that empowered Jesus' ministry and raised Him from the dead. When we understand that we will be empowered to be **doctor**, and **bridegroom**, and **rabbi**, and **wine** to a very broken world.

Where is God challenging you to throw away the old wineskin and embrace the new?