

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #13

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 5:27-32

Sermon Date: Dec 11, 2005

### Introduction:

What do you imagine it might have been like when Jesus first called the men who became his followers? Do you suppose he called others who didn't come along, or do you think he was a perfect twelve for twelve? If we were in Levi's shoes back then, maybe the dialogue would have gone something more like ...

Matt said to his friend, "Hey, isn't that the rabbi that just healed the paralytic who was always laying around the marketplace? That was something else!"

Suddenly Jesus looked at Matt and said "Follow me."

Matt was caught off guard. "Who me? Follow you where?"

Realizing that Jesus was serious, Matt began to back away. "But I've got this lucrative tax-collector gig going ..."

Fortunately, Levi did follow Jesus, and went on to write the first book of the New Testament. Turn now and study what really happened as recorded by Luke and others, and how we, too, can respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him.

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><u>Main Text:</u> Luke 5:27-32</p> <p><sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.</p> <p><sup>29</sup>Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. <sup>30</sup>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'?"</p> <p><sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>32</sup>I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."</p> <p><u>Parallel Passage:</u> Mt 9:9-13</p> <p><sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"</p> <p><sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' <sup>a</sup> For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."</p> <p><sup>a</sup> Hosea 6:6</p> <p><u>Parallel Passage:</u> Mark 2:13-17</p> <p><sup>13</sup> Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. <sup>16</sup> When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"</p> <p><sup>17</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

## Have You Thought About This ... ?

4. Jesus refers to 'righteous' ones in Luke 5:32.
  - a. How many are actually righteous? (See Romans 3:10, Ps 14:3, Ps 53:1, Eccl 7:20)
  - b. What behavior pattern do you see in 5:30 (hint: we'll see it again in Luke 18:11)
  - c. When have you been treated in such a judging way by others?
  - d. Who have you judged or "written off" as the Pharisees did the tax collectors and 'sinners'?
5. Jesus invites Levi to follow him, and then Jesus goes to Levi's house.
  - a. Why do you think Jesus 'followed' Levi this way? What principle(s) of effective ministry do you see in his example?
  - b. What would it look like for you to follow Jesus' example of entering the natural environment of some 'lost' people (rather than wait for or expect them to enter your environment)? What are the risks in this?

- c. What would it look like for you to follow Levi's example in Luke 5:29, inviting 'lost' friends to a Christ-honoring gathering? Who could you invite, and what could you invite them to?

## Gospel Challenge:

Remember the story of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-40? Philip hears the Ethiopian reading a certain passage of scripture, begins to dialogue with him, and then "began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus." (Acts 8:35)



Now, imagine you're on a train or a plane or in a coffee shop, and you come upon someone who is reading Luke 5:27-32. After some small talk, they ask you to explain the passage to them. After getting over the shock of such an unusual request, how might you follow Philip's example of seizing the opportunity to share the

gospel? In other words, how could you transition from explaining this passage to sharing the simple gospel message with someone? Use the space below and on the next page to write (or outline) what you'd say. Try practicing this with your small group or with others.



[If you're rusty on sharing the gospel, review the Romans Road (Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, and 10:13). Or listen to the sermon from April 24, 2005 by logging onto [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons).]

