

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE, LENNY TROCHE

DATE: APRIL 16, 2023

Joy, Not Devout Austerity, is the Basic Reality of Life in Jesus's Kingdom Luke 5:27-39

A "sinner" instantly responds to Jesus's invitation, becoming a Kingdom participant. (vv. 27-28)

Luke 5: 27 After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." 28 And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

Joy-filled fellowship characterizes all who come to Jesus for forgiveness. (vv. 29-35)

1. Unrighteous sinners celebrate Jesus's offer of spiritual healing.

Luke 5:29 And 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.

2. Self-Righteous religious experts criticize Jesus's ministry of mercy.

Luke 5:30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 4:18b "He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

3. Jesus's presence produces uninhibited celebration among his people.

Luke 5:33 And 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." 34 And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? 35 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days."

Joy-Producing Features of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-28)

- Obedience from the heart
- Unhindered relational intimacy with God
- Complete forgiveness from sin

Jesus illustrates the chasm between the New Covenant reality and cherished cultural expectations. (vv. 36-39)

- 1. It's foolish to incorporate the gospel piecemeal onto outworn human tradition.**
Luke 5:36 He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old.
- 2. Cultural expectations are not compatible with the actual Kingdom of God.**
Luke 5:37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. **38** But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.
- 3. The surprising New Covenant is often rejected in favor of what's familiar.**
Luke 5:39 And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, "The old is good."

Reflection & Discussion

1. Do you share Jesus's mercy for the "sin-sick" or do you tend to be like the Pharisees, critical of those who don't share your morality?
2. Joy in a restored fellowship with God is a hallmark of New Covenant life through Jesus. Would you characterize your life as being joyful? What are specific ways you can share that joy in your circles of influence?
3. Forgiveness of sin is a cause of celebration. What action can you take to make your forgiven-ess in Christ a cause of perpetual celebration in your life? How might that celebratory attitude change how you share your story of forgiveness, how you share the gospel, and how you pray for others?

SONGS

"THE LION AND THE LAMB"

"JESUS PAID IT ALL"

"NO LONGER SLAVES"

"KING OF KINGS"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 87,338.66

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 522,517.84

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 554,775.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:
(Last Entry – 4/10) \$ 60,385.30

Note: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!