

**“Follow me”**

**Luke 5:27-32**

# **“Follow me”**

## **Luke 5:27-28**

**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.

# **“Follow me”**

## **Matthew 9:9**

**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.**

# **“Follow me”**

**“Matthew (Levi) was a Jew who was appointed by the Romans to be the area’s tax collector. He collected taxes from the citizens as well as the merchants passing through town. Tax collectors were expected to take a commission on the taxes they collected, but most of them overcharged and kept the profits. Thus, tax collectors were hated by the Jews because of their reputation for cheating and because of their support of Rome.”**

# **“Follow me”**

## **Luke 5:29-30**

**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’?”

# **“Follow me”**

**“Jewish tax collectors were regarded as outcasts. They could not serve as witnesses or as judges and were expelled from the synagogue. In the eyes of the Jewish community their disgrace extended to their families.”**

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# **“Follow me”**

**[Sinners were] “notoriously evil people as well as those who refused to follow the Mosaic Law as interpreted by the teachers of the law. The term was commonly used of tax collectors, adulterers, robbers and the like.”**

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# **“Follow me”**

**“To “break bread” with someone had important consequences. Even as contact with lepers (Luke 5:12–16) brought ritual uncleanness, so in the minds of the Pharisees contact with tax collectors and sinners brought moral (as well as ritual) uncleanness.”**

**Robert Stein**



# “Follow me”

## Luke 5:31-32

**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.”

# **“Follow me”**

## **Matthew 9:12-13**

**12** On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **13** But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

**“Follow me”**

**Hosea 6:6**

**For I desire mercy, not  
sacrifice, and acknowledgment  
of God rather than burnt  
offerings.**

# **“Follow me”**

## **Micah 6:6-8**

**6 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?**

**7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? **8** He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

**“Follow me”**

**“Those who are self-righteousness do not realize their need for salvation, but admitted sinners do.”**

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# “Follow me”

## Romans 3:10-20

**10** As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; **11** there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. **12** All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” **13** “Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.”

**14** “Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” **15** “Their feet are swift to shed blood; **16** ruin and misery mark their ways, **17** and the way of peace they do not know.” **18** “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”



**19** Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. **20**

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

# **“Follow me”**

## **Romans 3:21-24**

**21** But now a righteousness from God apart from the law has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

# **“Follow me”**

## **The Great Physician**

**“So Jesus calls on those who are not well to get better by coming into the grace God offers them. If they desire to know God, the Lord will not reject them, but will begin the process that will make them well.”**

**Darrell Bock**

# Applications

- **Understand you're a wicked sinner in desperate need of The Savior**
- **“Follow Me” is immediate action**
- **After “Follow Me” invite others to hear the Good News**

# Final Thoughts

**“The call of Levi plays out in miniature a central theme in Luke’s Gospel: Jesus’ ministry to sinners who will repent and follow Him. The Great Physician has not come to heal the “righteous”- that is, the self-righteous-but sinners who recognize their desperate need of repentance and spiritual healing.”**

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible  
Background Commentary**

# Final Thoughts

**“Jesus chose to spend time not with those proud, self-righteous religious leaders, but with people who sensed their own sin and knew they were not good enough for God. In order to come to God, we must repent. In order to renounce our sin, we must recognize it for what it is.”**

**NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible**

# Final Thoughts

**“Christianity tells people to repent and promises them forgiveness. It has nothing (as far as I know) to say to people who do not know they have done anything to repent of and who do not feel that they need any forgiveness.”**

**C. S. Lewis**

# Final Thoughts

## Mark 1:15

**“The time has come,” he said.**

**“The kingdom of God has  
come near. Repent and believe  
the good news!”**