

Discussion/Reflection Questions

1. Some people respond to God quickly. Other people take a long time to consider and decide if they are willing to know and follow Jesus. What about you? Reflect on how God has been at work in your life and how willing (or unwilling) you have been to follow him.
2. The Bible makes clear that when a person responds to the invitation of Jesus to follow him, it should lead to a complete reformation and transformation of life and lifestyle. In what ways has your life been transformed by the grace and power of Jesus?
3. The best “evangelists” are those who have experienced the reality of Jesus in their lives. Like Levi, they are excited to introduce their friends to Jesus. When was the last time that you actively shared your faith with someone who does not know Jesus? If it was a long time ago, what does that say about *you*? Do you still know people who do not yet know and follow Jesus, or have you been so long in the Christian subculture that you have lost touch with the lost?
4. Does your life as a Christian look more like that of the Pharisees (comfortable with each other but segregation from and discomfort with those who do not yet know and follow Jesus) or more like that of Jesus (uncomfortable with the religious but comfortable in the presence of the irreligious and the spiritually “sick”)?
5. If you are someone who has not yet made a personal decision to accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord, why not do it today? Take time to confess your sin to God and ask for forgiveness. Ask God to become a living transforming presence in your life and decide today that you will know and follow Jesus. If this is your desire, or if you have made this choice today, please tell someone about your decision. Tell us (church staff) by indicating your decision on your Connect Card. We will pray for you and also send you helpful information.

Conversations with Jesus (I)

Pastor Alan Robinson, November 16, 2008

Bible Passages:

- Luke 4:28 – 30 (church Bible page 727)
- Luke 4:43 – 44 (church Bible page 728)
- Luke 5:27 – 32 (church Bible page 728)

Luke 5:27 – 32 (church Bible page)

(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."

The Gospel of Luke

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”
Romans 10:14 – 17 (Church Bible page 802)

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4.

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The Pharisees practiced salvation through s _____;

Jesus believed in salvation through a _____.