

For week of March 5 to March 11

## Tasting and Seeing #1: The Party at Matthew's House

### Getting Started

Make a list of places where a Christian should not go. What makes a place suitable or unsuitable? Is the list the same for everyone? Can there be exceptions to the rule? Why or why not?

Read the Text Together: **Luke 5:27-32**

### Discussion

The reading begins with the words, "After this. . ." What story does Luke tell just before the focus text for this week? Are there any parallels or points of connection between the stories? Why do you think Luke mentions the sequence timing of these stories? Is it important or just coincidental?

Put yourself in the place of Matthew. What are you feeling when Jesus calls you? Were you expecting this to happen? How do you feel about yourself before and after the calling? What does it take to leave everything and follow Jesus?

What does Matthew do after Jesus calls him? How do you think the other disciples felt about the banquet and about Jesus and themselves being associated with "sinners"?

What question do the Pharisees ask Jesus? Why do they ask this question? Would you have asked the same question if you had seen Jesus associating with Matthew's friends?

What answer does Jesus give? What does the answer mean? How do you feel about this answer?

### Wrap Up

Does the answer Jesus gives to the Pharisees cause you to need to reconsider the list of places a Christian should not go? Is there a danger that some Christians might use Jesus' words as an excuse to engage in dangerous associations or behaviors? What is the difference between being a "doctor" to the sick versus joining the sick in their sickness?

Jesus didn't spend all His time with the sinners. He spent a lot of time with just the disciples. How did He find the right balance? Are we finding the right balance in our church life? How about in our personal life? Should we be spending more time reaching out to "sinners"?

To follow Jesus' example in this story:

- What must I change?
- What decision must I make?
- What action must I take?