

## Reflection Questions: Luke 5:27-39

For the message, "You're Invited to the Celebration" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on April 28, 2019

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

### INTRODUCTION

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Luke 5:27-39

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.

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. 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."

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."

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. 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. 39 And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

**A summary of the message:** Following Jesus is like joining a celebration you thought you'd never be invited to.

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### QUESTIONS

1. One commentator described tax collectors as "the scum of Jewish society." What do you learn about Jesus heart and mission in (1) inviting a tax collector to become one of his disciples, and (2) being willing to go to a great feast with a large company of tax collectors?
2. How do you think Jesus' followers today reflect his heart and mission? Would you say based on your experience that Jesus' followers today reflect his heart and mission OR the heart and mission of the Pharisees?

3. Because Jesus was interested in those that nobody else was interested in, Jesus was willing to risk his reputation in order to be close to them, to celebrate with them, to eat and drink with them, to be with them. In other words, Jesus could not care less about what the religious police had to say about his heart and his mission to see those far from God brought near to him.
  - How does this text help us to understand the kind of church Jesus wants Mercy Hill to be? What would be our “vibe” if we followed in the footsteps of Jesus? What would be our vibe if we instead adopted the mindset of the Pharisees?
4. What would it look like for us a church community if we are to live out this text in our city? In other words, how does this text help us to clarify the kind of lifestyle we are called to live in this world for the sake of Jesus’ mission in this world?
5. How does this text help us understand God’s mission in our city? Can you imagine if just the Christians in our city took this mission to heart? Describe how things would/must change?

## **PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....