

Luke 5:27-39

After that

After what?

1. After he had already cleansed and healed a leper
2. After he had already forgiven and healed a paralytic
3. After he had experienced a slight conflict with the religious leaders of the day.

After that, He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me."

1. Here we see Jesus encounter a man named Levi (we also know him as Matthew)
 - a. With a name like Levi in first century Israel, he was without question a Jew
 - b. Not only does his name indicate that he was a Jew, but also that he was of the tribe of Levi (the priestly tribe).
 - c. He is the definition of Old Testament, except for one small detail.
2. His name might be Levi, but he is not a priest. He is a tax collector.
 - a. Who is he collecting taxes for? The Romans! The enemy! The occupiers...right?
 - b. This is a lucrative career, but one that doesn't get you favor with your fellow Jews.
 - c. You want to talk about failing as an Old Testament Jew!
3. Jesus notices him and says, I'll take you even though you aren't loyal to your country and your people. Follow me.

28 And he left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him.

1. This is a big move on Levi's part
2. Peter, Andrew, James, and John left everything behind to follow Jesus, however, we know that they could return to what they left behind
 - a. Fishing was a family business...the boats, the nets, and the business were still in the family
 - b. And we know that they did go back to fishing after Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected.
3. But when Levi gave up his government job, the possibilities of him ever going back were none!
4. He left everything behind and followed Jesus. That was, and is, the cost.

Luke 9:23 *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

29 And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them.

1. Jesus convinced Levi to follow him and a great crowd of sinners were touched with the message of Christ.
2. Do you know one of the reasons that we don't see more lost people saved?
3. Because we don't follow their oikos.
 - a. What is oikos...D group plug!
 - b. Family and friend connections...organic trail
4. The first thing Levi did was get a crowd of his peers together to meet Jesus.

30 The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" 31 And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Jesus did not come for the squeaky clean, but for sinners.

1. **It is hard to reach the sick if we are always quarantined from them** (in our box)
2. **It is hard to reach the sick if we always quarantine them from us** (missionary from China got sick and was finally sent to a nearby country with better medical care, but the doctors would not seem him for 14 days because that was the incubation period for the corona virus.)
3. **It is hard to reach the sick if we are also sick!** (We need to get fixed, come out of quarantine and go fix others.)

33 And they said to Him, "The disciples of John often fast and offer prayers, the disciples of the Pharisees also do the same, but Yours eat and drink." 34 And Jesus said to them, "You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? 35 But the days will come; and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days."

1. In other words, the accusation is, Jesus...you are not a very good Jew
2. You are not like other Jewish rabbis who keep the laws of Moses carefully. Who do you think you are?

36 And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. 38 But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. 39 And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough.'"

I. The Pharisees were clinging to the old

The old wine, the old wineskins, the old garments all represented the Old Covenant that the Jews held onto.

1. As far as they were concerned the Mosaic law (and of course their tradition) was the final standard for all.
 - a. Their lives were consumed with being careful to keep the moral law with all of its regulations
 - b. Their lives were consumed with being careful to keep the ceremonial law with all of its sacrifices and feasts and rituals
 - c. Their lives were consumed with a desire to reinstitute the judicial law...and that was one thing the Messiah would do when he came...overthrow the Romans, set up his throne, and reinstitute the judicial law of Israel.
2. In other words, their idea of a Messiah was one who would bring back the good old days of Israel.
3. He would resurrect and revive the old.

II. The Messiah was bringing in the new

New garments, new wine...a new covenant.

1. The good old days of Israel were not coming back again.
2. Something new and better is here.
 - a. Jesus is coming NOT to modify or improve upon the Old.
 - b. He is coming to bring something new!
 - c. As a matter of fact, in this parable the term new appears 7 times
 - d. This should be no surprise!
 1. Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah
 2. Luke 22:20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the **new covenant** in My blood.
 3. Hebrews 8:13 When He said, "A **new covenant**," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.
 - e. The emphasis falls clearly on the new, not the old.
3. And yet these Jews were going to prefer the old wine.

III. What about us?

You cannot pour Christ (the new wine) into the old wineskins of the Mosaic law.

1. He bursts those skins and you lose Christ
2. You cannot attach Christ (the new garment) to the garment of the old system. He doesn't match and trying to attach Him will tear the new work of Christ apart
 - a. I have seen this in my own ministry
 - b. When holiness is defined by how carefully you observe the OT law...rather than how desperately you cling to Christ, you lose the essence of Christianity.
 - c. Let there be no doubt that clinging to Christ will result in practical holiness, but it won't be a transformation into a Pharisee!
3. Christ has come to set us free from the bondage of the old wineskins, from the insufficiency of the old garments, and from the staleness of the old wine.

4. Galatians 5:1-6 *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*

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1. We have the new wine! John 2:1-10
2. We have the new garment! Matthew 22:1-14
3. Why would we want to return to the old?

Christ has come to bring us freedom, new wine, new garments, the hope of a new covenant.

GOSPEL

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| 1. Born a Jew? | Born again and adopted into His family |
| 2. Law righteousness? | Jesus in my place |
| 3. Sacrifice for sin? | Jesus in my place |
| 4. Promised Land? | Eternal rest. |