

Feasting and Fasting

Luke 5:27-35

Getting Started

- ❖ In what areas of your life do you resist change?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. The Story of Every Believer (v.27-29)
2. The Resistance of the Religious Unbeliever (v.15-16)
3. The Focus of Jesus' Mission (v.31-32)
4. So What? What relevance does this have for us?

Takeaway Truth: Jesus brings lasting joy not the joylessness of human religion.

Exploring the Text

- ❖ What was Levi's profession? How would the Jewish authority look at Levi and why? Who would he be compared to?
- ❖ What did Levi leave behind when he followed Jesus? (v.28)
- ❖ Who did Levi invite to his "new career party"? Why is this significant?
- ❖ What was the point of the Pharisees' condemnation of Jesus? Is there any scenario where their concerns or assessment would be valid? Why or Why not?
- ❖ What reason did Jesus give for his coming? What is significant about this verse? (v.32)
- ❖ What were Jesus' disciples failing to do, according to those questioning Jesus? Why was fasting so important to the conservative Jews?
- ❖ How did Jesus identify himself to those questioning him? Why is this statement significant?

Digging Deeper

- ❖ What did Jesus mean by saying that He came to call sinners to repentance and not to call the righteous? Who are "the righteous" that don't need Jesus? How should this verse influence us as individual believers and our church?

- ❖ What do people find most difficult to leave behind when they follow Jesus?
- ❖ What kinds of dangers are created when people compare their religious customs and habits with those of other people? How do we know when differences are unimportant and when they are crucial?

Apply It

- ❖ Do you believe your life and home/family are open to unbelievers who need Jesus? What tangible step could you take to build bridges to your lost companions?
- ❖ Why is it important to show respect for the way other Christians honor God? What would showing this respect look like?

Think About It

What one thought did God put on your heart during the message? Write it in the space below.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

December 10, 2023 | Second Sunday of Advent

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Words by Charles Wesley, 1739 | Music by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

HOLY FOREVER

**Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson,
Jenn Johnson, and Jason Ingram, 2022**

A thousand generations falling down in worship
to sing the song of ages to the Lamb, and all who've gone before us
and all who will believe will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.

Your name is the highest, Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all. All thrones and dominions,
all powers and positions, Your name stands above them all.

*And the angels cry, "Holy." All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, Holy, Holy forever.*

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
sing the song of ages to the Lamb. If you walk in freedom
and if you bear His name, sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

*And the angels cry, "Holy." All creation cries, "Holy." You are lifted
high, Holy, Holy forever. Hear Your people sing, "Holy," to the King of
kings, "Holy." You will always be Holy, Holy forever.*

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Latin Antiphons, 12th Century | Plainsong, 13th Century

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from
depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing
nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows
put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David come and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

GREAT ARE YOU LORD

**Words and Music by David Leonard, Jason Ingram,
and Leslie Jordan, 2012**

You give life. You are love. You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore every heart that is broken.
And great are You, Lord.

*It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise,
we pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs,
so we pour out our praise to You only.*

And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
great are You, Lord (3x)

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 25; Amos 6:1-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; Luke 1:57-68

MONDAY | Ps. 40; Amos 7:1-9; Revelation 1:1-8; Matthew 22:23-33

TUESDAY | Ps. 33; Amos 7:10-17; Revelation 1:9-16; Matt. 22:34-46

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 53; Amos 8:1-14; Rev. 1:17-2:7; Matt. 23:1-12

THURSDAY | Ps. 126; Amos 9:1-10; Revelation 2:8-17; Matt. 23:13-26

FRIDAY | Ps. 130; Haggai 1:1-15; Revelation 2:18-29; Matt. 23:27-39

SATURDAY | Ps. 72; Haggai 2:1-9; Revelation 3:1-6; Matthew 24:1-14

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
during this Advent season,
we think of John the Baptist, the one who came before you,
to prepare your way through the confession of sin and baptism.
May your indwelling Spirit speak into our hearts today
and lead us to repentance, that we may strive
to be found by you without spot or blemish,
and at peace; and may we regard your patience as salvation.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.



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