



Following the Leader - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 4 – Sunday 4th October 2020 - Luke 5.27-39

When reading stories like this it is important when we have read about what happened, that we then ask questions, 'Why are we being told this, how does it fit with what we have heard before, what have we learned and what difference is this going to make to the way we follow Jesus? Now we have finished chapter 5, look through again noticing all the characters and groups that are mentioned and picking out any themes that you notice.

Story 1. Rejoicing and Critiquing. Please read Luke 5.27-29 - Lots of unanswered questions!

1. What contact, if any, had Matthew/Levi (Matt .9:9) had with Jesus beforehand? Why do Matthew and Luke use different names? etc.
2. Why do you think Levi responded so quickly and so positively? Can you think of a situation where you have responded to Jesus like that (or would have liked to but didn't!)?
3. Levi held a banquet 'for Jesus'. He wanted all his friends to meet him. Is there an equivalent today? How might we go about making friends we can invite friends to dinner with Jesus?

Please read Luke 5.30-32 - More questions!

4. Why were the Pharisees there and how did they hear about it?
What was it that the Pharisees upset about and why was that so important to them?
5. These sincere believers' first reaction was to criticise! Have you seen folk doing that or ever done it yourself? How can we make sure any criticism we give really is fair and necessary?

Story 2. A Question with two illustrative 'answers'. Please read Luke 5. 33-39

6. Have you ever tried answering questions with a proverb or story? Maybe you could ask each other questions and think of a story that might be a good response!
7. What 'new wine' might we want to put into 'new wineskins' and what 'old wine' do we really want to keep drinking? A good question perhaps during Covid restrictions!
8. The Pharisees tried to drive a wedge between Jesus and his disciples. Has anyone tried to do that to you?

Read **Romans 8:34-39** and remember only we can let that happen. People like Richard Dawkins work hard to separate Christians, from their faith, and from Jesus.
Pray for each other that we will resist any attempts to do that.