

Luke 5:27-32 **Calling of Levi - also called Matthew**

27 After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." 28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. 29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. 30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered and said to 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." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✚ Jesus was staying in Simon Peter's house in Capernaum on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. [Mark 1:29]
- ✚ Jesus went out of the house and walked by the Sea, Multitudes came to Him and He taught them. [Mark 2:13, Luke 5:27]
- ✚ Jesus passed by the tax office and saw Levi (Matthew) the son of Alphaeus, and Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." So he arose and followed Him. [Mark 2:14, Matthew 9:9, Luke 5:27-28]
- ✚ Levi (Matthew) gave Jesus a great feast in his own house, and there a great number of tax collectors and other "sinners" who followed Jesus and sat down with Jesus and His disciples. [Luke 5:29, Mark 2:15, Matthew 9:10]
- ✚ And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" [Mark 2:16, Matthew 9:11, Luke 5:30]
- ✚ When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." [Mark 2:17, Matthew 9:12, Luke 5:31-32]
 - ✧ Jesus came with the same purpose as John the Baptist in calling people to repentance in preparation for the Kingdom of Heaven. [Matthew 3:2, 4:17, 9:13 Mark, 1:15, 2:17, Luke 5:32]
 - ✧ The righteous are already ready for the Kingdom of Heaven, but sinners need to be called to repentance in order to make it in. There is more Joy in Heaven over one sinner who comes to repentance than over 99 who need no repentance. [Luke 15:7]
 - ✧ But we need to realize that all who think they are righteous, might also be sinners in need of repentance. [Luke 18:10-14]
 - ✧ If we carefully consider how God views us we might recall that God has said: "There is no one who is righteous and sins not, no not one." [Ecclesiastics 7:20, Romans 3:9-18, Galatians 3:22, Psalm 14:1-3, 53:1-3]
- ✚ This is very much in keeping with the message of Jeremiah and Ezekiel:
 - ✧ But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have **turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.** [Jeremiah 23:22]
 - ✧ Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?" says the Lord GOD, "and not that **he should turn from his ways and live?** [Ezekiel 18:23]
 - ✧ For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore **turn and live!** [Ezekiel 18:32]
 - ✧ "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked **turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?**' [Ezekiel 33:11]