

News - Luke 5:27-39

March 25th, 2018

1. Friendly Good News VS 27-32

Jesus befriended and invited sinners to be totally in on promoting peoples' release from Satan's power and restoration to God through repentance of sin and faith in God's forgiveness.

Through our being totally in on Jesus' inclusive Good News ministry, God's desire to befriend sinners and save them from Satan to restore them to himself is fulfilled.

2. Unfriendly Bad News VS 33-34

Pharisees excluded sinners as beyond the possibility of their friendship and inclusion into God's people because they lacked self-righteousness, the self-righteousness the Pharisees claimed as keepers of God's Law.

News that teaches self-righteousness for attaining friendship with God and assurance of a home with him in heaven is unfriendly bad news to people enslaved to sin.

3. Deceptive & Destructive News VS 35-39

Whereas Jesus' inclusive ministry was rooted in God's ancient and gracious plan for all humanity's redemption, the Pharisees' new approach of creating self-righteousness deluded people and destroyed God's ancient plan.

Sharing a gospel other than the unadulterated and undiluted friendly good news of Jesus deceives people and destroys God's redemptive work.

Questions

1. Jesus' friendly Good News is ancient good news of God's grace. How have you heard people try to add new or novel elements to the ancient good news of Jesus that turns what was intended to be a faith response to God's grace into works based salvation?

2. Consider the spiritual cross section of Canada. In Canada there are an increasing number who believe there is no god, a large portion who consider themselves as spiritual but not associated with a particular religion, some Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Bhai, as well as mainline Protestant and Roman Catholics and a smattering of Mormon, Jehovah Witness and Evangelical Christians. Circle which ones you think are of the friendly good news category. Put a box around those you think fall under the category of unfriendly bad news. Place a broken circle around those that would be considered deceptive and destructive news that keeps people from the friendly good news. Compare your answers with one another and talk about any differences in your results.

3. The first thing that Levi did when he became totally in with Jesus was to throw a party. He invited a number of friends and acquaintances across the broad spectrum of his community to meet Jesus. Part of the tradition in that day was to spend time discussing some truth from Scriptures over drinks after the main meal. Levi's party followed this model which then led into the discussion on befriending sinners and fasting. Jesus used the discussion to draw the table guests deeper into the truth of God's ancient plans of salvation. Your challenge as a group is to plan and throw a Levi party. Spend some time discussing:

- a) Who each of you can invite
- b) How large of a party to throw and where to hold it
- c) What your menu will look like
- d) What interesting topic will you introduce to discuss after the meal
- e) When to do it
- f) Other?