

May 26, 2019 - Speaker - Dave Solmes  
Text: Luke 5:27-32 - Hanging With a Different Crowd

**Title:** Hanging with a Different Crowd ....

**Scripture:** Luke 5:27-32

TWO SCENES: The Street and the Home

### **Scene #1: The Street**

**A New Center:** This story unfolds as Jesus was leaving town. All throughout Luke's gospel we are catching up to Jesus where people are living their lives. In the Old Testament and New Testament all religious activity centred in the tabernacle or the permanent temple / the ceremony. The ministry that was offered brought people to the temple placing all kinds of religious expectations on people.

In the gospel of Luke Jesus is introducing a new centre. Jesus in the midst of people's everyday lives is the new centre. Not really one fixed address. Perhaps the centre is best discovered by using a GPS rather than a postal code.

**Question:** "When you think of LWC ? What comes to your mind?"

Is it a building with an address on Glover Road and school gymnasiums on 84th Avenue in Willoughby or do people come to mind?

We certainly see this in our text: Here we see Jesus once again moving into someone's neighbourhood / someone's life that most likely never would have found their way to the temple.

*"As Jesus left the town He saw a tax collector named, "Levi".*

The chosen word here is "saw". Jesus properly interpreted who Levi was and what He could become. People on the streets would know exactly who this Levi was. Levi was a government worker. Perhaps very corrupt - as he collected taxes. Typically tax

collectors were extortionists and therefore detested on account of their harshness, greed, and deception.

Jesus saw something beyond that and said, "Follow me and be my disciple,"

Following is not about changing a home address or adopting a nomadic lifestyle . Following was a call to a change of purpose, a change of heart, and is certainly the first step in becoming a disciple. Following means conforming - whole heartedly to Jesus 'example. Jesus isn't calling us to leave our neighbour. He is calling us to love our neighbour and neighbourhood.

### **SCENE #2 - Levi's Home**

(verse 29) Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honour.

This was a significant day for Levi. He obviously placed value on His new relationship with Jesus, and throws a party to introduce Jesus to His community of friends and co-workers.

Who Attends the Party? Levi's colleagues (other tax collectors), Pharisees, and other friends. Most likely this was Levi's social circle. God is wanting us to remain in our social circle to be salt and light, if nothing else. The gospel calls us into community and to the neighbourly way.

Why would any Church be intentional about multiplication? What comes to you mind when you consider how important multiplication is?

Churches that Multiply value:

- great commission
- recognizing and releasing
- community and authenticity
- spiritual formation
- worship
- generosity

**Question:** What are the Next Steps that you would take to move along on the neighbourly way?

Are there certain things that God is calling you to in the next while?

For example: Gather with "Different Crowds". Give generously. Get Involved