



## Jesus Includes the Outsider

Luke 5:27-39  
(page 728 in the church Bibles)

Speaker: Tim Mackie, Teaching Pastor

### Redefined: Jesus Includes the Outsider

Luke 5:27-39

Main Idea: Jesus challenges the religious and social boundary lines that exclude anyone from being part of God's family.

#### Connecting

Describe a situation where you felt like an outsider. What made you feel that way?

When might "deviant" or counter-cultural behavior serve a good purpose in a society?

#### Understanding

Read Luke 5:27-39. Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus? How was he violating their social and religious norms?

Read Isaiah 25:6-9 and 62:4-5. What is the prophetic significance of Jesus' meal with tax collectors and "sinners"? What is the significance of the wedding imagery Jesus uses in vv. 34-35?

Explain Jesus' parable in vv. 36-39. What are the "old" and "new" systems he alludes to? Why will some people prefer "old wine" to "new"?

What are the differences between a "bounded community" and a "Christ-centered community"?

#### Living

Do you identify more with Levi or with the Pharisees? Explain.

What is it about the "in crowd" mentality that can push God away? Why are "outsiders" often more receptive to God's grace?

What people tend to be classified as "outsiders" by the church? In what ways can we move towards those who have been excluded?

In what ways can you leverage your own situation to share the love and grace of Jesus with those who need it?

Think about the choices you have made this week. Are you moving towards Jesus or away from him?

Pray, asking God that his grace and love would transform us and move us towards the outsiders in our communities.

#### Sneak Preview

Next Sunday: "Jesus Chooses Compassion Over Religion," Luke 14:1-14

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• Past message series are available on CD, or can be requested, at the Resource Center.