

The Difference between Religion and Relationship
Luke 5:27-32

Matthew 6:5 Page #962

- I. Performance is more important than heart change & motives.

Matthew 7:1-5

- II. Fault finding & prideful judging take precedence over relationship and healing.

Matthew 15:1-20

- III. Personal preferences & self righteous expectations are pushed over God's truth and freedom in Christ.

Matthew 23:1-4, 23-24

- IV. Legalism and image are more important than justice, mercy & faithfulness.

Luke 5:27-32

- V. True joy is lacking & the focus of life becomes being decent instead of closeness to God & reaching the lost.

Questions for this week:

I. For Starters:

1. What jobs or careers do you think would be difficult on a true follower of Christ?
2. When is the last time you intentionally invited some *"sinners"* to a dinner & what happened?
3. What is the biggest *"about face"* that has happened to you since you became a believer?

II. Overview of Scripture

1. Read Luke 5:27-32 out loud as a group. What is the main point of the passage?
2. What was Levi's occupation and why is that important to the story? (27)
3. What simple command did Jesus give to Levi and how does that sum up the Christian life? (27)
4. What steps in verse 28 reveal that Levi is truly a changed person?
5. What does left everything behind mean for a wealthy tax collector?
6. What was Levi's next step as a follower of Christ and what does this say about his new passion (29)
7. What type of people would have been at the party knowing what you know about tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners (29)
8. Why do you think many new believers do not have the same passion or intentionality to reach those who do not know Christ?
9. By accepting Levi's invitation, how was Jesus viewed by the *"religious"* people? (30)
10. Why do *'religious"* people grumble and find fault with others so often?
11. How did Jesus describe His ministry & what does He want the religious leaders to know? (31-32)

III. Growing Deeper

1. Review Sunday's message with someone.
2. How do you believe you can best demonstrate in your daily life that you are a follower of Christ?
3. What does it take to be willing to be in a situation that is filled with people who disagree with you and have their eternal best in mind?