

Luke 5:27-32 Following Jesus...

Series on doctors orders – Follow the master!

Jesus said: It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. Luke 5:31

Psalm 1.

God has good plans for you – like a tree planted by streams of water! And what he does is ask and invite, and encourages, and provokes you into his plan. Into his way, his life, his kingdom. He can't force anyone. He asks you. This is an example with Levi

Jesus has a very limited conversation with him...two words!
After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Vs 27f
He sees him in the Tax Booth, invites him... and it's the moment! The Now. It clicks, the penny drops...Aha!!
He gets up... leaves everything – and it's done...

What does Jesus mean? The Message translation says, "come along with me..." and there is in this phrase – becoming a disciple.

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" Vs 29f

When you make that decision, and make it day by day – who are you going to influence? The people you are normally with. Family, friends, workmates.

Don't give up on anyone - don't despair of anyone's salvation – while they're alive there is hope!

William Booth had a motto for his early Salvationists – "go for souls and go for the worst..." Jesus said: I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Vs 32

Claim the joy of believing! Levi has a great banquet! The angels in heaven rejoice! Sentamu says the church is about 'prayer and party...' Remember the prodigal son's return? Don't be like the older brother!

It's the joy that is infectious! The joy of the Lord is my strength... says the psalmist.

Questions:

Do you have examples of doctor's orders that have done you good. Use a physical example and/or a spiritual answer i.e. when you have followed a particular Biblical order...

Jesus said: It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. Luke 5:31. Who might Jesus mean by 'the healthy?'

This passage shows Levi's moment of decision. He is going to start following Jesus. What was that for you? But also have you had moments of decision this week?

Don't give up on anyone – each of us will have people in mind who seem resistant to the Gospel. As you share them – you may discover others have examples of the most resistant turning to God.

Claim the joy of believing. Are there different ways to do this? What are ways we can celebrate this together and demonstrate to others?