



MESSAGE REVIEW

From the time we're born, a gap exists between each of us and the life God intended us to live. But God, because of His great love, closed that gap by grace through Jesus, and He calls us, His followers, to do the same for those far from Him. Closing the gap between others and Jesus requires understanding, empathy, graciousness, and love.

WARM UP QUESTION

What is something that almost immediately triggers anger or annoyance in you?

1 **Read Luke 5:27-32.** Describe what life would have been like for a tax collector in Jesus' day. What would be a similar occupation today? Do you have a group of people you have a hard time identifying with, or even dislike, because of what they do, believe, or think?

2 What special strategies did Jesus use to call Levi? Why do you think Levi was so ready to follow? Why was it different for Levi to follow Jesus as opposed to the four fishermen already following Him? Do you sense God asking you to leave anything behind in order to follow Him wholeheartedly?

3 What was the first thing Levi did after he started following Jesus? How does your own story compare? What are some creative ways God may be asking you to close the gap between your friends and Jesus?

4 What is so tragic about the response of the religious leaders? Is Jesus saying He didn't come for religious people? Do you ever fall into the same trap of self-righteousness? How?

5 We can help close the gap between people and Jesus by not being easily offended, by being more understanding and empathetic toward others, and by being gracious and loving. Which one is God asking you to focus on this week?

RESPOND

What have you learned about God from His Word? How is He asking you to apply it to your life? When will you apply it?

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