



Birds Of A Feather

Luke 5:27-32

1. Tax office (booth) – tariff collected on merchandise that passed on highway between Syria and Egypt

Via Maris (Is.9:1)



1. Tax office (booth)

2. "Follow Me." Mt.5:46

➤ Associated with Rome

➤ Associated with Gentiles

➤ Reputation for dishonesty (Lk.3:13)

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1. Hated / despised tax collector left everything to follow Jesus
2. Took pen to write...
3. **Modesty:** Matthew never mentions his role in the feast
4. Another would get his job

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1. Feast in Jesus' honor; thankful for salvation
2. Unlikely guests. Mt.21:31-32
3. Not a mere social occasion.

“Many tax
collectors...
followed Him”
(Mk.2:15)

“Tax collectors...
drew near to Him
to hear Him”
(Lk.15:1)

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1. Jews thought eating with sinners would defile them. Ac.11:3
2. Grumbled at His disciples

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Jesus' answer (part one)

1. He does not associate with sinners as a comrade in evil
2. Great Physician must go to patient

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Jesus' answer (part two)

1. He did not come to call those who think they are worthy . . .
2. He calls those who admit their need.
Mt.5:3; 11:28-30
3. All have sinned; these are self-deceived. Lk.18:9-12

Three views

1. **Pharisees** – “separated ones” – avoid all contact with sinners. Period!
2. **Disciples** – “run with” sinners
3. **Jesus** – contact sinners to save them

I. Association With Wrong Crowd Is Dangerous

Association with wrong crowd...

1. Discourages spirituality. 1 Co.15:33
(10:12)

a. Peter: Lk.22:31-34 . . .

b. 1 Co.5:6

**“He who walks with wise men will
be wise, But the companion of
fools will be destroyed” – Pr.13:20**

Association with wrong crowd...

1. Discourages spirituality. 1 Co.15:33 (10:12)
2. Defiles conscience.

“You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” – Ja.4:4

(Ro.7:3)

- a. Neutrality is impossible
- b. Even if we do nothing, we choose

Association with wrong crowd...

1. Discourages spirituality. 1 Co.15:33 (10:12)
2. Defiles conscience. Ja.4:4
- 3. Destroys influence. 1 Pt.4:1-4**

The world . . .

- a. Knows you turned to God.**
- b. Wants you back.**
- c. Is encouraged if you return to sin.**
- d. Knows if you fall from grace.**

Association with wrong crowd...

1. Discourages spirituality. 1 Co.15:33 (10:12)
2. Defiles conscience. Ja.4:4
3. Destroys influence. 1 Pt.4:1-4

4. Distresses family. 2 Pt.2:7-8

a. Mrs. Lot – corrupted

b. Children – shameless

c. Lot – impoverished

**WORTH
IT?**

Association with wrong crowd...

1. Discourages spirituality. 1 Co.15:33 (10:12)
2. Defiles conscience. Ja.4:4
3. Destroys influence. 1 Pt.4:1-4
4. Distresses family. 2 Pt.2:7-8
- 5. Disregards God's warnings.**
 - a. Nu.16:...26**
 - ▶ **“How close can I get??”**
 - b. Ac.9:...26**
 - ▶ **Demand proof . . .**

I. Association With Wrong Crowd Is Dangerous

**II. Association To Save The Lost
Is Discipleship**

Discipleship

1. Where should a physician go?
... Teacher? ... Jesus?

2. Mt.28:19

Go therefore and **make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

Discipleship

1. Where should a physician go?
... Teacher? ... Jesus?

2. Mt.28:19

3. Mt.13:52

“has become
a disciple”

Therefore every scribe **instructed**
concerning the kingdom of heaven is
like a householder who brings out of
his treasure *things new and old.*

Discipleship

1. Where should a physician go?
... Teacher? ... Jesus?

2. Mt.28:19

3. Mt.13:52

4. Mt.9:13

1. We must show mercy...
2. Not enough to attend...
3. Not enough to wish it...

**But go and learn what this means:
'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.'
For I did not come to call the right-
eous, but sinners, to repentance."**

I. Association With Wrong Crowd Is Dangerous

II. Association To Save The Lost Is Discipleship

**III. Association With The Godly
Is Delightful**

Godly association . . .

1. **Edifies, Ro.15:2** (Lv.19:8 / Lk.10)
2. **Enables (in problems), Ga.6:2**
3. **Encourages, 1 Th.4:18**