

**“Ushers Or Bouncers?”**  
**Luke 5:27-32**

**Introduction: As a Christian, do you live more like an usher trying to bring people into a relationship with Jesus or a bouncer trying to keep out those you think are unworthy? (give the context of this and mention it is paraphrased from Bob Goff)**

**Pastor Chris Stephens testimony illustration**

**Read Scripture:**

27 “After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” 28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him.

29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. 30

And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

31 Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

**Characters and Background:**

-Jesus is the friend of sinners.

-Tax collectors were the lowest of the low in Jewish society. They were considered traitors and were often greedy, corrupt people who exploited others.

-The Pharisees were a very strict religious group. Some of them were very critical of Jesus. While some of their beliefs were correct, they were very legalistic and missed what was truly important.

**1. Jesus calls sinners to repentance (v. 27, 31-32).**

-God takes the initiative in bringing us to Himself.

-We are all sinners.

-No sinner is beyond the grace and transforming power of Jesus.

-Jesus loves sinners.

**2. We must repent and follow Jesus (v. 28).** Matthew made a decisive break with his old life and attached himself to Jesus as one of His followers. He did this because he trusted Jesus. We are called to do the same thing today, which is repent and follow Jesus because we are trusting Him. Repentance involves a break with our old life. We are to symbolize and publicly confess this through baptism.

**3. Followers of Jesus introduce others to Him (v. 29-30).** Matthew threw a party and used it to connect Jesus with his sinful friends. He didn't just invite the other Christians. The religious legalists criticized them associating with these sinners. That is such arrogance! Do we look down on others this way (act like a bouncer)? Or do we love people and seek to introduce them to Jesus (act like an usher)?

**Conclusion:**

**-Are you following Jesus? Are you repenting of your sins and trusting Jesus?**

**-Have you confessed your faith through baptism?**

**-Are you introducing others to Jesus? Who's your One?**

**-As a Christian, do you resemble an usher or a bouncer?**