

2020 Embracing a New Vision
Embracing a New Vision for How God See's Me- Week #10
Small Group Notes
June 11 and 14

Main Point: Embracing a new vision requires me to see how God sees me.

Introduction:

Who are the social outcasts of our day? How do you think that Jesus would have related to them? How should the church minister to them?

How might someone's status as a "sinner" keep us from befriending them? Would you be worried about what people might think?

What are some things that can hinder our vision for how God see's others? How can an incorrect vision of ourselves impact the way we see others?

Discuss:

1. Read Luke 5:27-28

Explain: Levi gave up his livelihood in order to follow Jesus. He left a life of easy money. Jesus was not fazed by the fact that Levi was a tax collector. He called Levi anyway, and Levi, also known as the Apostle Matthew (Matt. 9:9), would prove to be a faithful apostle. The religious leaders, who one would assume would be righteous and follow Christ, wound up rejecting Jesus.

Ask:

What is surprising to you about these two verses?

What do you think led Levi to abandon everything so quickly to follow Jesus? What did Levi abandon besides his tax booth?

What have you left behind in order to follow Jesus?

2. Read Luke 5: 29-30

Explain: The first thing that a new believer ought to want to do is to share the good news with others. Levi did just this. After he left everything to follow Jesus, he threw a banquet for Him and invited all of his friends to sit and eat with Him. It is natural for us to try to reach the community that God has put us in. For Levi, that was a community of tax collectors.

How did Levi's perspective change after his confrontation with Jesus? What actions did he take?

Who did Levi invite to hear from Jesus? How was this controversial?

How is Levi's example challenging to you? Encouraging to you?

3. Read Luke 5:31-32.

As Christians, we must know that no one is any better off or worse off than we are spiritually. We all need Jesus to be saved. It doesn't matter if they are a prostitute, a drug addict, a school teacher, or a doctor. Everyone needs Jesus, and they need to hear the gospel to be saved. We ought to all be looking for the opportunity to share the gospel with anyone we have an opportunity to share with.

How do these verses affirm your call to share the gospel? Why do we struggle with this?

What has been your response with the call to share the gospel?

Do:

Who is in your immediate sphere of influence that you could share the gospel with as Levi did? You may not be able to host a banquet in Jesus' honor, but could you invite a coworker or friend to your home to build a better relationship with that person in order to show him or her what Christ has done for you?

If you don't know who the "tax collectors" of your town or culture may be, could you pray this week that the Holy Spirit will show you a ministry you might get involved with to reach others with the gospel?

Search your heart this week to make certain that your bias against someone isn't preventing you from showing that person the love of Christ.