

ULC Sermon Study Resource  
Why Jesus? // He is Gracious  
Pastor Gabe  
Oct 1, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Ice breaker: Has there ever been a time you felt unfairly judged?

Reading Luke 5:27-32

#### I. The Call of Grace (Luke 5:27-28)

- A. Jesus calls Levi, a despised tax collector, to follow Him.
- B. This act challenges societal norms and religious expectations.
- C. Levi responds immediately, leaving everything to follow Jesus.
- Q. How does Jesus' call to Levi challenge our understanding of grace and inclusion?

#### II. The Narrative of Performance (Luke 5:29-30)

- A. Pharisees and scribes criticize Jesus for associating with tax collectors and sinners.
- B. The Pharisees operate under a performance-based mindset, linking worth to religious observances.
- C. Many people today still struggle with the pressure to perform and meet societal expectations.
- Q. In what ways does the pressure to perform affect our relationship with God and others?

#### III. The Paradigm of Grace (Luke 5:31-32)

- A. Jesus responds by highlighting His purpose: to call sinners to repentance.
- B. Grace is presented as a free gift, available to all, regardless of their past or current state.
- C. Jesus challenges the Pharisees' understanding of righteousness and emphasizes the transformative power of grace.
- Q. How can understanding and embracing grace reshape our self-perception and interactions with others?

#### Application and Reflection:

1. How can we embrace and live by grace in our daily lives?
2. Reflect on moments when you've experienced God's grace. How did it impact your perspective and actions?
3. How can we extend grace to others, particularly those we might consider undeserving?
4. What practical steps can we take to cultivate a grace-centered mindset in our community?

#### Suggestion for further study:

- Luke 19:1-10 How does the story of Zacchaeus another tax collector compare with this account in Luke 5:27-32?
- Matthew 9:9-13 Mark 2:13-17 How do Matthew and Mark's accounts of this event compare with Luke's?

#### Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, Help us to accept your grace and offer it to others. Help us to build our lives and self-worth on your grace, not our own competency and performance. We thank you, Lord, for the grace You extend to us every day Amen.