



## Including The Taxing | Luke 5:27-32

1. We don't know what brought Levi to be a tax collector, but it was woven into God's plan. (v27) Share with each other some ways in which your life decisions, looking back, you can now see have been used by God in his plan for you.
2. Levi had to leave things behind to follow Jesus. (v28) Are there things you have had to leave behind to follow Jesus? Are there things he may be calling you to leave behind today to follow him even more closely? Share with one another and pray for each other.
3. Before meeting Jesus, Levi was an outcast, shunned by everyone. Is there anyone, or a group of people, who you find hard to believe that Jesus could reach? Spend some time praying for them.
4. In following Jesus, Levi would have been alongside people who he previously might have had a difficult relationship with: fishermen whose taxes he collected, and a zealot – zealots were known to attack tax collectors. How can we foster unity as a church family, even with those people who we do not find as easy?
5. Levi held a banquet so that his friends could meet Jesus. (V29) In what ways can hospitality be used, individually, in small groups, and as a church, to help people know that Jesus loves them?
6. The Pharisees criticised the disciples, and by implication Jesus, for eating with 'the wrong kind of people.' Sometimes when we have been Christians a long time most of the people we know are other Christians. Where are the places you meet people who do not know Jesus yet? Are there other places you might be being led to? Pray for one another and the contacts you have.
7. Jesus calls us to repentance, a turning around to walk in the opposite direction. (v32) Talk together about what repentance means at this point of your journeys with Jesus.
8. Levi, who we know as Matthew, later wrote a gospel, particularly to reach his own people group, the Jews. Are there ways that we, individually or more widely, can find ways to express the good news of Jesus specifically tailored to those groups we are in?