



## Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

*"In The Presence of My Enemies"*

### **Points from Sunday's Message**

1. Jesus approaches the reproached and includes the excluded.
2. Jesus befriends and blesses the untouchables and unforgivables, and calls the unthinkableables.
3. Jesus calls as disciples and dines with the despised.
4. Jesus associates with outcasts because His is a mission of rescue, redemption, and restoration.
5. The way of Christ challenges me to live and love differently.

### **Key Verse:**

*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.*

— Luke 5:32

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In Luke 5:27–28, Jesus calls Levi—a despised tax collector—to follow Him. What does this reveal about the kind of people Jesus seeks out?

- How does this encourage you personally about your own walk with Jesus?

**Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26–29**

2. The Pharisees questioned why Jesus ate with “tax collectors and sinners” (Luke 5:30). In what ways do we still feel pressure to protect our reputation rather than risk associating with the “wrong kind of people”?

- Share an example where you felt torn between reputation and compassion.

3. Pastor Miles highlighted Psalm 23:5—“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.” What does it look like in today’s world to extend hospitality or grace to people we consider “enemies” or opponents?

- **Further Reading: Matthew 5:43–48**

4. Jesus said, “*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance*” (Luke 5:32). How does keeping this mission central change the way we think about our role as Christians in society?
  - What would shift in your daily life if you intentionally sought out “sinners” with the hope of sharing Jesus’ grace? **Further Reading: Luke 19:10; John 3:17**
5. Pastor Miles reminded us that hatred leads to destruction, but Jesus calls us to respond differently. How do you wrestle with the tension between being angry at evil and still choosing forgiveness, prayer, and love?

- **Further Reading: Ephesians 4:26–32**

6. Miles pointed out that political or social movements will not heal us—the gospel is the true power of transformation. How does this perspective challenge how you invest your time, energy, or hope for change in our nation or community?
  - What would it look like for you personally to “lead with the gospel” this week?  
**Further Reading: Romans 1:16; Acts 4:12**

*Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.*