1. **Luke 5:27-29**

* Reflect on the verses and share what does the phrase “Follow me” mean to you?
* When you hear “And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him”, what do you imagine Levi left behind, was it physical possessions, or something more?
* What did Levi do for Jesus in this reading?
* **1 Timothy 1:15**
* What specific group of people were present with Levi and Jesus, and what message do you think the author is trying to convey by mentioning that group of individuals?
* **Matthew 9:9-10**
* What name does Levi also go by according to Matthew’s version of events?
* Why might this “tax collector” have two names, what might be the difference between the two names considering early Jewish historicity?

1. **Luke 5:30-32**

* What new groups of people have been introduced to the story now?
* What is the difference between this new group and the previous group of people mentioned?
* What do you believe the purpose of the question “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” is, do you believe these individuals are really curios about what they see, or is there another motive behind it? Please share.
* **St. Ambrose** relates this question from the **Pharisees** to the question asked to **Eve** in **Genesis 3:1**, what relationship if any, do you see possibly existing between these two questions being asked?
* How does Jesus respond to the question?
* What comes to your mind when you hear and reflect on Jesus’ response?
* Consider a situation where you were fulfilling God’s work and where another asked you a question in a similar manner, how did you respond?
* **St. Ambrose** (339 AD – 397 AD) *Exposition of The Gospel of Luke 5.16-18*

“Then follows the mystic calling of the tax collector, whom He orders to follow him not by steps of the body, but by disposition of the mind. Thus, he who formerly greedily exchanged for reward sailor’s hard eared profits from labors and dangers, leaving that ignoble seat, followed after the Lord with whole footprint of his mind.”

*Second Quote out of Context*

“’Why does he eat and drink with publicans and sinners?’ That is the voice of the serpent. So the serpent made this first utterance, saying to Eve, “Wherefore hath God said, ‘Eat not of every tree’?. Thus, they who say ‘Why doth He eat and drink with publicans and sinners?’ spread the poison of their father.”

* **St. Cyril of Alexandria** (378 AD – 444 AD) *Commentary on Luke Sermon 20*

”For Levi was a publican, a man insatiable after filthy lucre, of unbridled covetousness, carless of justice in his eagerness after what was not his own; for such was the character of the publicans: yet was he snatched from the very workshop of iniquity, and saved beyond hope, at the call of Christ the Savior of us all. For He said unto him, ‘Follow me, and he left all and followed him.’ See thou that most wise Paul truly says, that ‘Christ came to save sinners.’ See how the Only begotten Word of God, having taken upon Him the flesh, transferred unto Himself the devil’s goods?”

* **St. Bede** (672 AD – 735 AD) *Homilies on The Gospels Section 1.21*

“’I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners’ can also be properly understood in this way. Christ has not called those who, wishing to establish their own justice, have not been made subject to the justice of God. He calls those who, being conscious of their weakness, are not ashamed to confess that we have all offended in many things. In them too is fulfilled his saying that he had not come to call the just but sinners. That is, he does not call the exalted, but the humble. He does not call those puffed up about their own justice, but those showing themselves devotedly subject to the one who justifies the wicked. Such people, when they are converted, bear witness with a sincere heart that they must not be regarded as just, but sinners. It is a pleasure to remember, beloved to what a height of justice the Lord fetched Matthew, whom he chose out of his tax collecting activities in order to increase for sinners their hope of forgiveness. The apostolic band into which he was incorporated teaches what kind of person he became.”

* Please share a final thought that stood out to you today.