

JUDGING

Share the Table

January 6, 2019

Introduction: Tax Collectors were notorious for being unprincipled and unethical. These traitors took more than they were supposed to, and became rich in the process – think Zacchaeus. He was a small man, but a wealthy one. One of Jesus' chosen disciples was Matthew, a Tax Collector. Instead of judging him, Jesus invited him to be a part of his ministry. Matthew was so thrilled he threw a party for Jesus filled with Tax Collectors. Do you think this set well with the Pharisees – the guardians of ethical behavior? Today we discuss judging.

Scripture Reading: Luke 5:27-32

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me."²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him. ²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:27–32).

I. Tax Collectors

*After this he went out and saw **a tax collector named Levi**, sitting at the tax booth (Luke 5:27).*

*¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, **I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector** (Luke 18:10–11).*

II. Judging Others

*And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with **tax collectors and sinners?**" (Luke 5:30).*

Definition: Measuring someone and then not allowing the measurement to change.

III. Judgments are formed through one's unmet expectations.

A. Taught prejudices.

NOTE: Judging is a quick way to sort through opinions and make choices without thinking.

B. Observable information.

NOTE: Most of us are constantly viewing others through eyes which continually form judgments.

C. Moral & Ethical beliefs.

NOTE: Judgment of others is often produced through the 'truths' and 'beliefs' we impose on others.

IV. Matthew – His Call

²⁷ *After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “**Follow me.**”* ²⁸ *And **leaving everything**, he rose and followed him (Luke 5:27–28).*

Question: Why would Jesus pick a Tax Collector?

²⁸ *I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”* ²⁹ *(When all the people heard this, and **the tax collectors too**, they declared God just, **having been baptized with the baptism of John**,* ³⁰ *but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) (Luke 7:28–30).*

²¹ *So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,* ²² ***beginning from the baptism of John** until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection” (Acts 1:21–22).*

V. Moving from Judgment to Empathy

A. Enter into their lives.

*And Levi made him **a great feast** in his house, and there was **a large company of tax collectors** and others **reclining at table** with them (Luke 5:29).*

¹ *Now **the tax collectors** and **sinners** were all **drawing near to hear him.*** ² *And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:1–2).*

⁶ *So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.* ⁷ *And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “**He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.**”* ⁸ *And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”* ⁹ *And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.”* ¹⁰ *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:6–10).*

B. Listen to their past.

C. Understand their experiences.

D. Empathize with their current situation.

Principle: Judgments are released through time spent with those we judge.

³¹ *And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² **I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance"***
(Luke 5:31–32).

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Scripture Reading: Luke 5:27-32

- I. Tax Collectors (*Luke 5:27*) (*Luke 18:10–11*)
- II. Judging Others (*Luke 5:30*)

Measuring _____ and then not allowing the measurement to _____.

III. Judgments are _____ through one's unmet _____.

- A. Taught _____.
- B. Observable _____.
- C. Moral & Ethical _____.

- IV. Matthew – His Call (*Luke 5:27–28*) (*Luke 7:28–30*) (*Acts 1:21–22*)
- V. Moving from Judgment to Empathy

- A. Enter into their _____. (*Luke 5:29*) (*Luke 15:1–2*) (*Luke 19:6–10*)
- B. Listen to their _____.
- C. Understand their _____.
- D. _____ with their current situation.

Principle: Judgments are _____ through time spent with those we _____ . (*Luke 5:31–32*)