

TURNING THE TABLES, PART 2  
**THE BANQUET AT LEVI'S HOUSE**

Luke 5:27-39

*It's not just our moral lives but our social lives that reveal  
whether we understand the heart of Jesus.*

**Be amazed by the SURPRISING COMPANY Jesus keeps. (5:27-30)**

- Transforming grace—Jesus is willing to disciple anyone who will follow him. (27-28)
  - Scandalous grace—Jesus is willing to dine with anyone who will host him. (29)
- “But look at your guest list, Jesus—what about the risk of spiritual contamination?” (30)

**Be amazed by the SURPRISING PEOPLE Jesus serves. (5:31-33)**

- The mission of Jesus—not the healthy but the sick. (31)
  - The priority of Jesus—not the righteous but the sinners. (32)
- “But look at your partying, Jesus—what about the importance of spiritual disciplines?” (33)

**Be amazed by the SURPRISING GRACE Jesus brings. (5:34-39)**

- The illustration of the bridegroom—a time for joyful relationship. (34-35)
  - The illustration of the garment—a time for New Covenant forgiveness. (36)
  - The illustration of the wineskin—a time for overflowing grace. (37-38)
- “Now, look at your merit mentality, folks—what is your response to the new wine of God's grace?” (39)

***Some things we learn from the banquet at Levi's house. . .***

1. Authentic outreach goes way beyond casual contact and religious pronouncements; it entails winsome interaction.
2. Association with outcasts is a part of authentic outreach; it is an opportunity for God to convey his amazing grace.
3. Open doors lead to open hearts; that's why strict isolation from “sinners” is not the call of the Christian disciple.
4. A good sign we've been transformed by grace is that we open our lives and homes to others who need that grace.
5. The tendency to focus on the evil in others rather than in ourselves is one reason the world remains evil.
6. God's grace is experienced only by those who know they need it; those who don't think they need it never repent.
7. The new wine of God's grace cannot be contained in the old wineskin of human merit.
8. The irony of legalism is that it doesn't make people work harder; it makes them give up.
9. Jesus, the bridegroom, *was* eventually “taken away” and contaminated by sin on the cross—voluntarily.
10. Who's at your table? If “doing lunch is doing theology” (Conrad Gempf), what kind of theology do you have?