

Come As You Are

Luke 5:27-32

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / February 28, 2021

I. You need to know that few things will hinder your walk with Christ more than self-righteousness.

Luke 5:31 “And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.’”

A. Jesus roundly condemns self-righteousness (as does the rest of the Bible).

Luke 15:7 “Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Proverbs 3:34 “Toward the scorners He is scornful, but to the humble He gives favor.”

1 Corinthians 4:8 “Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Without us you have become kings...”

B. Self-righteousness is oftentimes the one thing that keeps people from being saved.

Luke 5:32 “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

James 4:6 “...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

II. You need to welcome people to God as Jesus did - as they are, without any strings attached.

Luke 5:27 “After this He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And He said to him. ‘Follow Me.’”

If you require someone to do something before they can come to Christ, you’ll nullify the free gift of salvation which is by grace through faith alone.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

2 Timothy 1:9 “Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began...”

Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...”

Romans 3:20, 28 “For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight...For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

III. You need to remember God can use your life as a testimony to the fact that leaving everything for Jesus is always costly, and always worth it.

Luke 5:28 “And leaving everything, He rose and followed Him.”

The cost of following Jesus is different for every Christian, but it always involves sacrifice and loss.

Luke 5:11 “And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.”

Immediately after following Jesus, Matthew used what he had at his disposal (money for food and a large home) to bring his friends as close to Jesus as they could before he'd leave them, or they'd leave him.

Luke 5:29 “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.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. What do you think the modern-day equivalent of a tax collector is?
2. Why do you think self-righteousness is so easy to see in others, but so difficult to see in ourselves?
3. Pastor Peter said “When we require people to change before we welcome them to Christ, we're essentially preaching a false Gospel.” Why is that?
4. What person, group, etc., do you think you'd be most tempted to require a change of some sort on their part before welcoming them to Christ?
5. Pastor Peter said “To varying degrees, the cost of following Christ is high for every true Christian.” How have you experienced cost or loss as a result of following Jesus?