

## **The Call of Levi**

Luke 5:27-39

by Don Falkos

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One day Jesus encountered a man named Levi who was busy at work collecting taxes. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Levi immediately left everything and followed Jesus.

Later Levi had a banquet at his home in honor of Jesus. There were many tax collectors and other disreputable people who were guests at this meal.

The Pharisees and the experts in the Law were offended and asked, "Why do you eat and drink with these Roman collaborators, these traitors to the Jewish people, these sinners?"

Jesus responded to their complaint, "Healthy people don't need a doctor. Sick people do. I haven't come to invite good people to change their lives. I've come to encourage sinners to turn to God."

And when asked why his disciples were always eating and drinking instead of fasting, Jesus replied, "While the bridegroom is with them, the guests at a wedding eat and drink in celebration. It's only natural. But the day is coming when the bridegroom will be taken away. That will be the time for fasting.

"No one cuts a piece of cloth from a fine, new garment to patch an old, rough garment. The new garment will be ruined and the fabric won't match.

"No one puts new wine into old wineskins. As the new wine ferments, it will expand and burst the old, stiff wineskins. The wine will be lost and the skins will be ruined. New wine has to be put into new wineskins, which will stretch as the wine matures. Besides anyone who's been drinking the old wine won't want the new wine. They'll say, 'The old wine is better.' "