

Centered in Jesus

Jesus Partied with Sinners

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Luke 5:27-32

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Introduction: In Ephesians 2:19 the apostle Paul writes: "...you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God." (NRSV) As we begin a new calendar year and a new era at UPC it is time to ask ourselves the question "What does it mean to live my life with Christ at the center?" In this series, we will look into scripture for pictures of what that looked like for the people of Jesus' time and the early church. The clues we find will help us construct an actionable answer to this question so that we can take stock of where we are and take steps to make Jesus the center of our lives.

Review: How did rejoicing for what God has done for you impact your life this week?

Read: Luke 5:27-32

Prayer: Lord of Life, be with us as we seek to know you better through our study. Show us clearly what we need to see. Amen

Discussion:

1. Describe how this scene starts. Who does Jesus see? What does Jesus ask?
2. Why does Jesus go to the party at Levi's house?
3. Why do the Pharisees care about what Jesus is doing? What beliefs or assumptions do you think are guiding their posture toward Jesus?
4. With which characters in this story do you identify? Who would you like to be like?

Application: Think through with Jesus what following Him means in your life.

Prayer: Holy God, thank you for your presence in our lives. Help us to apply what we have learned. Amen