



Embracing the New that Jesus Offers


Luke 5:27-30; 38-39



ALWAYS ON THE OUTSIDE

LOOKING IN

THOMAS W.P. SLATIN



1. Ever felt like you were outside the “notice” of God? Meet Levi, the friend of those on the “outside looking in.” Levi is one of the 1st “captives” to be set free. Do you see yourself as a modern-day “captive”?

- Luke 5:30, 15:2, 7:34, 19:7
- Zechariah 3:3-4, Isaiah 61:1-3

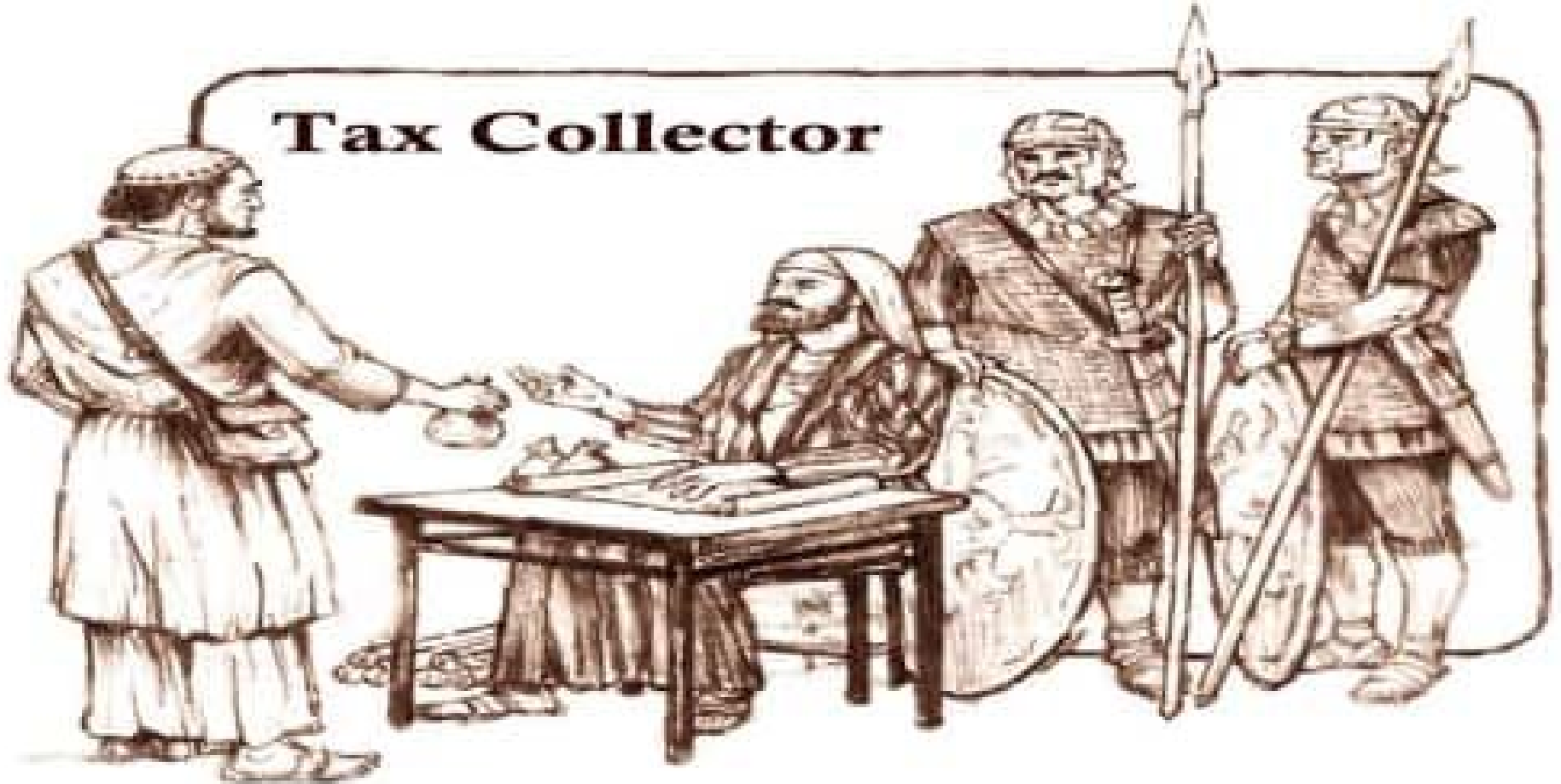
2. When Jesus “notices” us, He often calls us to a personal response of “followship.”


- Luke 5:27-28, ... he *noticed* a tax collector sitting in the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he left everything behind and got up and began to follow him.”
- Lk. 5:32 "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."



3. Our personal response to the call of Jesus will often require us to embrace an entirely different approach to following Jesus.
- And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. (Lk. 5:36 NAU)

Tax Collector





Our new approach to following Jesus will be fueled by the time we spend with Jesus daily.

“The measure of the worth of our public activity for God is the private, profound, communion we have with Him.”

- Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, 1/6.

4. Are you ready to respond to Jesus' call to fellowship?

1. Believe that God wants me on His "team."
2. Believe what God says about me and not what I (or others) say about me; and trust Him to be the source that enables me to bless others.
3. Commit to daily "abiding in the true vine" of Jesus; to sit with Jesus daily by opening his word as my daily "food."
4. Act on His invitation.

Next steps.

1. Decide today that, if you are not sitting with Jesus on a daily basis, that you will begin tomorrow morning (or evening). Give Jesus no less than 20 minutes of your time.
2. Supplement (or replace) devotional resources with reading either the gospel of Luke or John. If you would like a copy of my sermon notes, email kip@yourbethany.org for a copy. Use those notes to study today's sermon for the entire week.