

## Sermon Discussion Questions for February 7, 2016

Luke 5:1-11; “Jesus Is Hospitable”

### A. The calling of Matthew, a tax-collector

1. What is significant about the calling of Matthew? How was he perceived by others? How do you imagine he may have perceived himself?
2. Tax-collectors are consistently mentioned in the gospels. Why do you think this is so? [see *Matt. 5:46; 11:19; 21:31-32; Mark 2:15-16; Luke 3:12; 5:29-30; 7:29,34; 15:1*]
3. Who is beyond the reach of the saving mercy of God? How does your answer to this question impact the way that you view and treat others?

### B. Three main points of this sermon

1. The essence of the gospel:
  - i. receive the sinner . . .  
*vs. 12-13 “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick . . . For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners (Matt. 11:28)*
  - ii. reject the (self) righteous  
*vs. 11 – the accusation of the Pharisees*  
*vs. 13 – Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6 – why is this significant?*  
*Matthew 7:21-23*
  - iii. How can the rejection of the self-righteous be part of the “good news” of the gospel? How does the cross guarantee the acceptance of the repentant sinner? Why does *I John 1:8-9* use the language of [*He is*] faithful and just to forgive our sins . . . ?
2. The expression of the gospel: God’s hospitality (generous treatment of guests) of us
  - i. In Christ, we have been welcomed (*Hebrews 4:14-16*)
  - ii. For Christ, we welcome others (*Deut. 10:17-19*)
  - iii. By Christ, we will one day be welcomed into His heavenly home (*John 14:1-3*)  
NOTE: Jesus had (in *Matthew’s* day) and has (in our day) no house of His own to welcome the stranger (see *Matthew 8:20*). So it is His plan to use our homes as his home to bless others. Note also that if strangers do not come to us, then we go to them. Hospitality is not a matter of geography, but generosity.
  - iv. Hospitality is prominent in the New Testament: *Rom. 12:13; I Tim. 5:10; Heb. 13:2-3; I Peter 4:9; I Tim. 3:2 and Titus 1:8*
3. Our perpetual need for the gospel: our hindrances to hospitality
  - i. our hearts
  - ii. our time
  - iii. “intentional hospitality”
  - iv. “spontaneous hospitality”

### C. What does hospitality look like for Central Presbyterian Church . . . for you . . . ? (the example of the Mayo Clinic)