

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

INTRO: 1. Associations influence us

2. Lk.5:27-32, the call of Matthew (Mt.9:9). *Levi* (Hebrew); *Matt.* (Gk.).
  - a. 27, *Tax office* (booth) *τελώνιον*: tariff collected on merchandise that passed on highway bet. Syria & Eg. □Via Maris (Is.9:1). *Follow Me*. Mt.5:46. <sup>1</sup>Assoc. w. Rome; <sup>2</sup>& w. Gen.; <sup>3</sup>repu. for dishonesty, 3:13
  - b. 28, hated / despised tax collector left all for Jesus.
    - (1) Took pen to write *Mt.* In modesty, never mentions his role in feast.
    - (2) He made complete break w. the past – al. would get his job; who would hire tax collector for al. job? Gr. sac. than fishermen.
  - c. 29, feast in Jesus' honor (thankful for salvation). [Some complain over what they gave up for Lord.]
    - (1) Unlikely guests: shady characters. They need sal. God prefers 'shady char.' to 'holier than thou' critics (e.g.: *Matt.* – *apostle!* Paul is not more surprising). Cf. Mt.21:31-32 (*Matt.* had been one...).
    - (2) Not mere social occa. Mk.2:15, *many fol. Him...* Lk.15:1, *hear Him.*
  - d. 30, Jews tho't eating w. sinners would defile; Ac.11:3. Grumbled.
  - e. 31, Jesus' ans.: He does not associate w. them as comrade in evil; the Great Physician must go to patient.
  - f. 32, didn't come to call those who think they are worthy but those who admit their need. Mt.5:3; 11:28-30, can't convert the self-satisfied. [All have sinned; these are self-deceived. Cf. Lk.18:9-12.]
3. Three views:
  - a. Pharisees: separated ones – avoid all contact w. sinners. Period!
  - b. Disciples: "run with" sinners...
  - c. Jesus: contact sinners to save them.

## I. ASSOCIATION WITH WRONG CROWD IS DANGEROUS.

A. ***Discourages spirituality.*** They become like you or you like them.

1. 1 Co.15:33 (10:12). Peter tho't it couldn't happen to him, Lk.22:31, *ὑμᾶς*, all disc.; 32, *σοῦ*, Pt. 33-34. . .55...
2. 1 Co.5:6, *little leaven* . . . Pr.13:20.

B. ***Defiles conscience.*** Ja.4<sup>4</sup>; Ro.7<sup>3</sup> *So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress* Neutrality is imposs.; even if we do nothing, we choose sides. ▪"Will you marry me?" ▪R.Y.R. Is bap. nec.? **Silence!**

C. ***Destroys influence.*** 1 Pt.4:1-4, the world . . .

1. Knows you turned to God.
2. Wants you back.
3. Is encouraged if you return to sin.
4. Knows if you fall from grace.

D. ***Distresses family.*** 2 Pt.2:7-8. Mrs. Lot→ corrupted; chil.→ shameless; Lot → impoverished. Worth it?

E. *Disregards God's warnings*. Nu.16:...26, see how close you can get w/o being destroyed? Ac.9:26, demanded proof before they would accept murderer...

## II. ASSOCIATION TO SAVE THE LOST IS DISCIPLESHIP

A. Where should a physician go? W. sick! Teacher...? Where was Jesus? Appl.: Mt.28:19, μαθητεύω / 13:52, NKJV: *instructed*; NASB: *has become a disciple*.

B. **Mt.9:13** we must show mercy. Not enough to attend...or to wish it.

## III. ASSOCIATION WITH THE GODLY IS DELIGHTFUL

A. *Edifies*, Ro.15<sup>2</sup> *Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.*  
*Neighbor* recalls Lv.19:18, 2<sup>nd</sup> gr. com. (as Lk.10). Here even more vital.

B. *Enables* in problems, Ga.6<sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, & so fulfill the law of Xp.

C. *Encourages*, 1 Th.4<sup>18</sup> *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

CONCL: 1 Co.5:9-13, like Xp., we must talk to them, but avoid "friendship."