

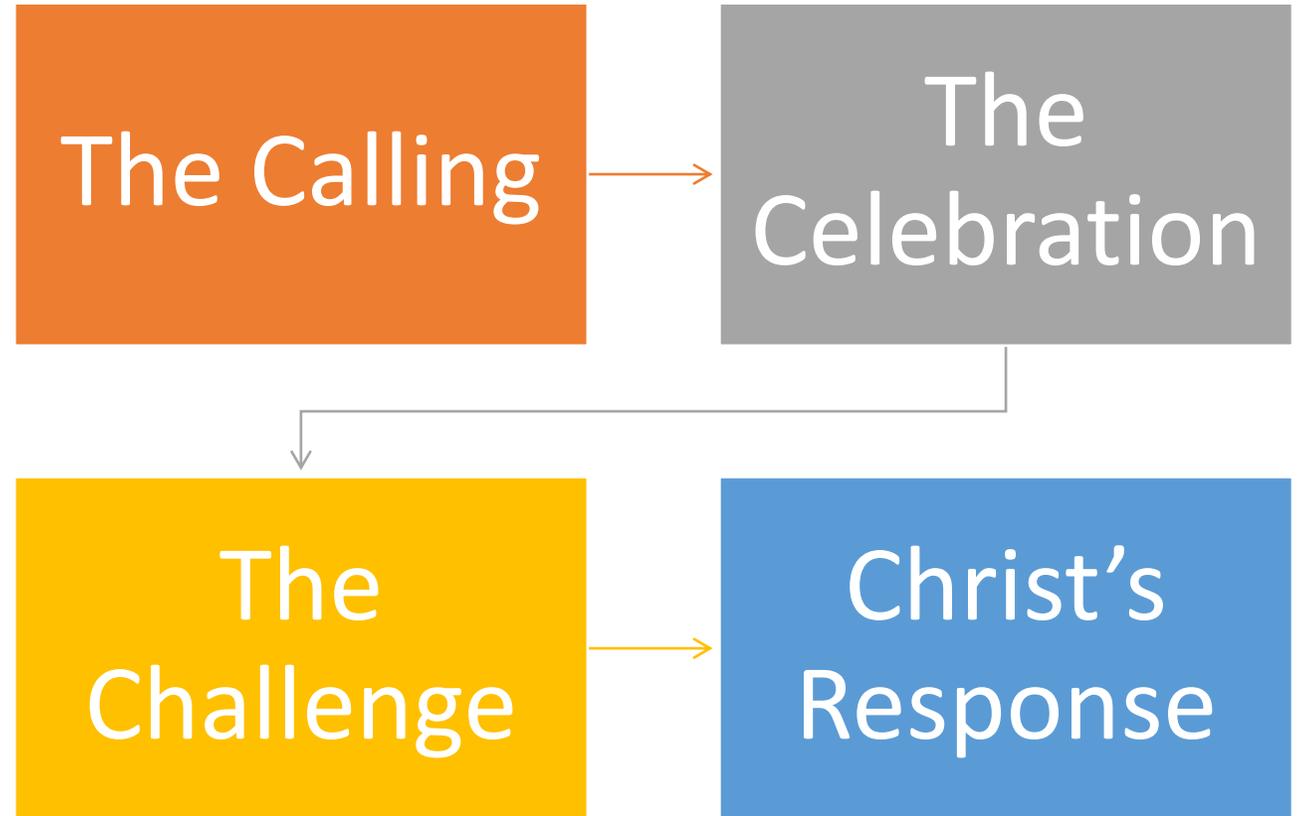
“...He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’” – Luke 5:27

The Calling of Levi: Sharing the Wonders of His Love

2nd Sunday of Misra



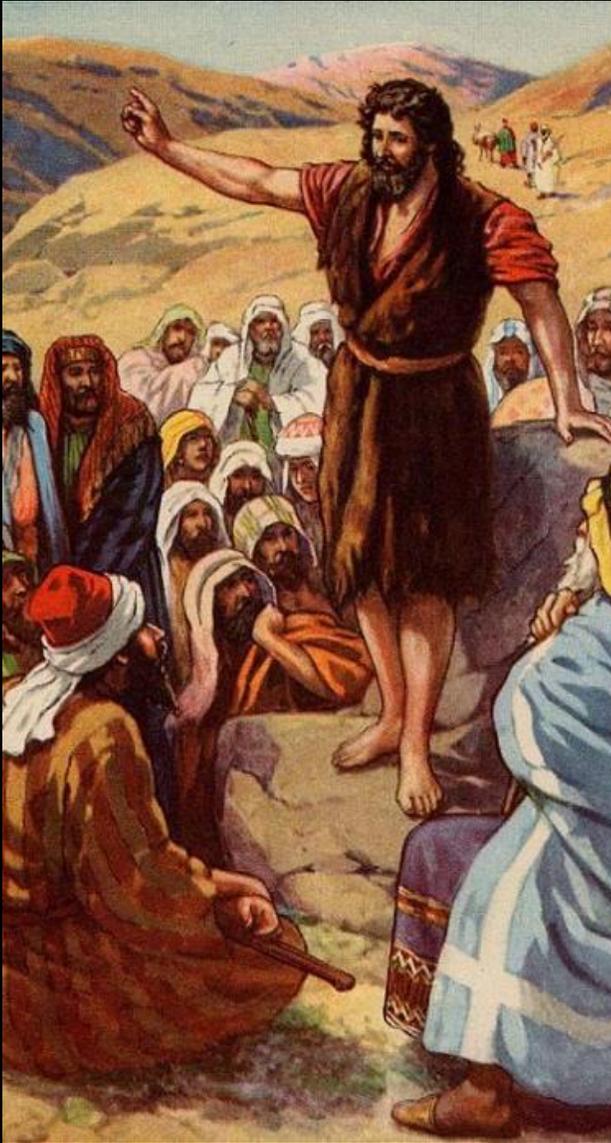
Four Phases





The Calling

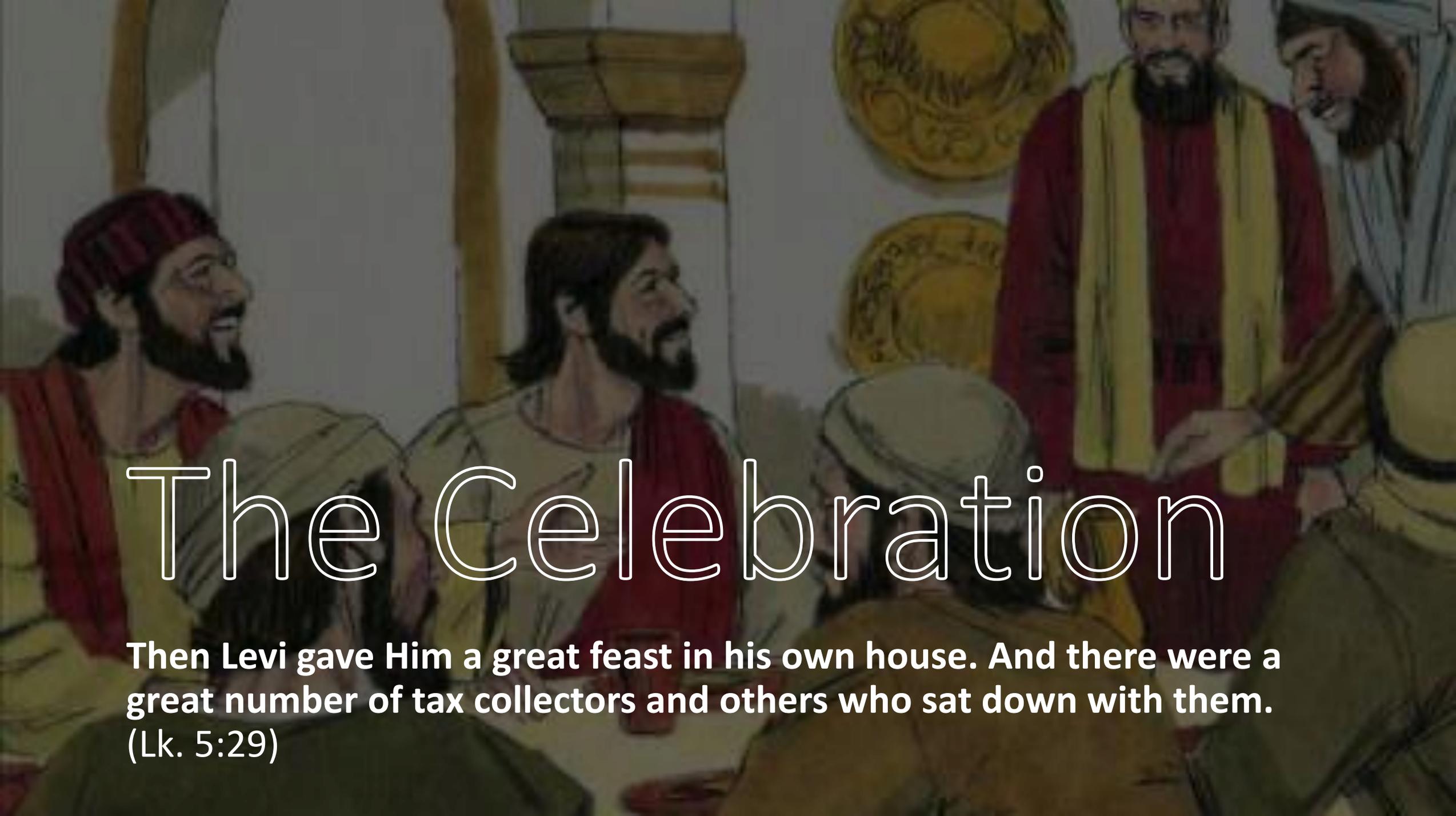
After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. (Lk. 5:27-28)



The Calling

- Perhaps he was prepared by St. John the Baptist
- “Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than what is appointed for you.” (Lk. 3:12-13)
- The Lord Christ saw in him potential
- His calling was effective





The Celebration

**Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them.
(Lk. 5:29)**

The Celebration

- Levi invites his friends to share in his joy
 - What is the reason for his joy?
 - Newfound forgiveness
 - His career change
 - The Lord was present at the celebration
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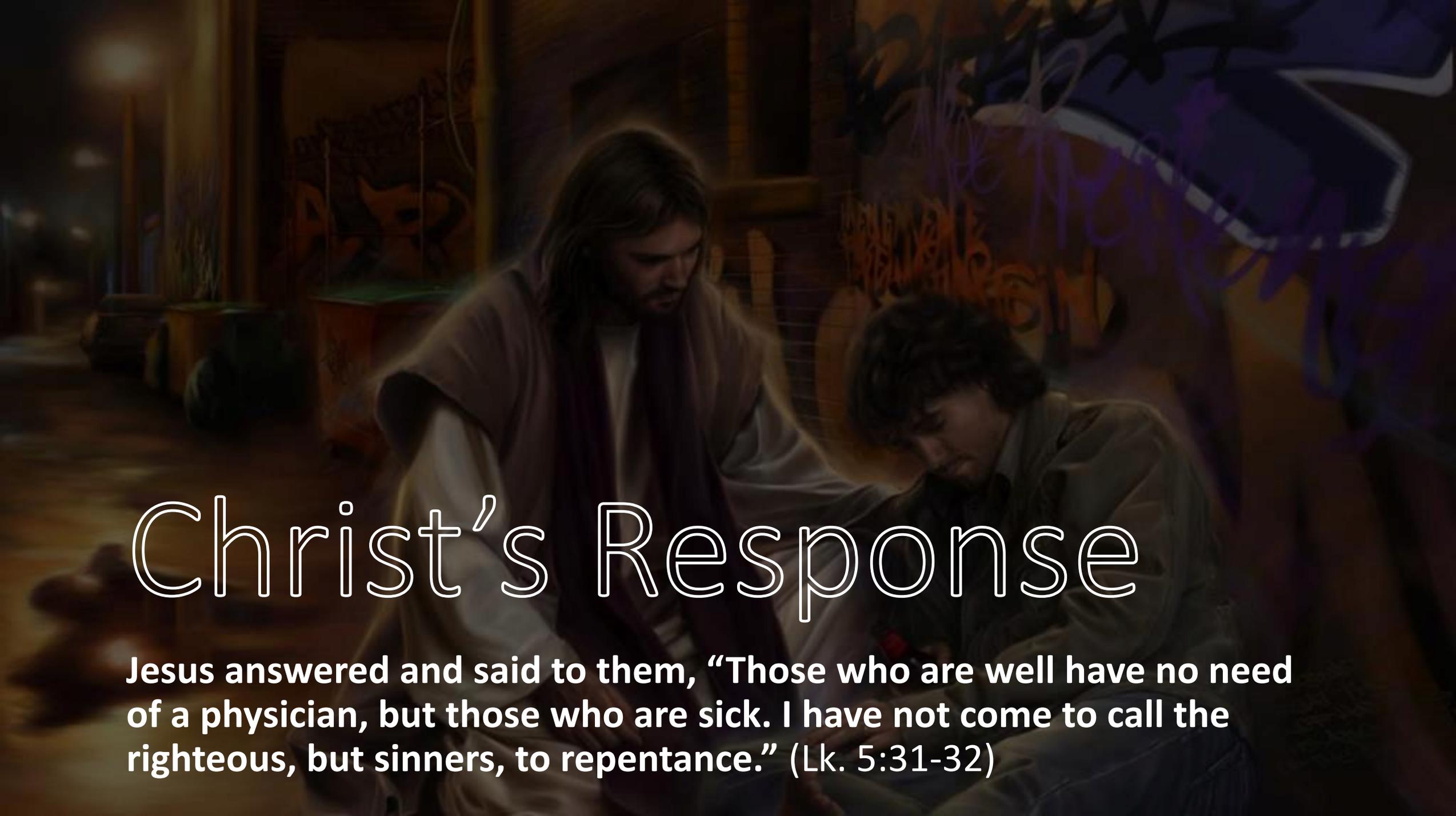


The Challenge

And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (Lk. 5:30)

The Challenge

- The Pharisees complained
- The Lord Christ cannot be defiled or corrupted by sin or sinners
- The Lord was willing to endure the hostility for the sake of His disciples

A dimly lit scene from a religious film. Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a simple robe, stands and looks down at a man sitting on the floor. The man is wearing a dark jacket and is looking down at his hands. The background shows a wooden interior with some decorations, including a purple and white striped banner hanging from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is solemn and focused on the interaction between the two men.

Christ's Response

Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Lk. 5:31-32)

The Lord Christ's Response

- He desires healing over destruction
- 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?' (Ezk. 33:11)
- The Lord Christ, the physician of souls diseased by sin, is ready to die of the disease Himself.
- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor. 5:21)



Fr. Damien of Molokai

Summary

- The Calling
 - Throw the seed, you never know when the ground is ripe
 - There are no insurmountable difficulties in the way of a sinner's return.
- The Celebration
 - Do not disqualify yourself from service because of your past.
 - Those who deserve love the least need it most.
- The Challenge
 - The Lord Christ cannot be defiled or corrupted by sin or sinners
 - Are we willing to endure hostility for the Lord Christ's sake? For others?
- The Lord Christ's Response
 - What are we willing to sacrifice for the salvation of our brethren?