

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: The Gospel vs. Bad Religion

**Passage: Luke 5:27-39 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: Jesus ministry was marked by relationships and activity that went contrary to the religious traditions of men.

**I. Why are you doing that! (5:27-32)**

- Jesus intentionally engaged the most hated person in the community, a tax collecting traitor.
- Levi responded in faith, leaving everything to follow Jesus.
- Jesus and his disciples attended a banquet full of sinners who celebrated with Levi.
- The Pharisees could not fathom why Jesus would defile himself by breaking bread with such scum.
- Jesus explains that He has come to give life to sick repentant sinners willing to respond to His invitation.
- The Gospel aggressively pursues sinners while Bad Religion piously separates from them.

**II. Why aren't you doing this? (5:33-39)**

- In stead of submitting to Jesus' message, the religious leaders critique Jesus' "failure" to observe their fasting traditions.
- Jesus responded that (1) fasting was inappropriate in His presence and (2) His ministry was the NEW that God had promised, thus making His Gospel incompatible with their teaching.
- The Gospel reproduces the words and work of Jesus while Bad Religion remains stuck in powerless traditions of men.

**III. Application**

- Jesus is aggressively pursuing sinners today with the same invitation, Follow Me.
- Jesus doesn't want more of you. He wants you to leave everything to fully embrace Him.
- Followers of Jesus are called to aggressively pursue sinners with the Gospel of life.
- Followers of Jesus must be very aware of and avoid the dangers of religious tradition.