

Taxing Times

Luke 5:27-39

LG Questions for 10/25/09

Warming Up

- 1) Taxes.** “I don’t think our taxes are too high. I think we should all be willing to pay more taxes.” a) How does that statement make you feel? Warning: Tell how you feel (grateful, angry, etc.) not what you think about the government. b) Would you find it easy or difficult to sit in church and worship next to someone who was responsible for raising your taxes? Explain.

Getting into the Bible

- 2) Levi’s Party.** Read Luke 5:27-32. Tax collectors were local citizens licensed by Rome to collect taxes in Caesar’s name and hated due to their corruption and collaboration with the enemy. With no newspapers to tell them how much they owed, people relied on tax collectors for that information who used it to cheat them and enrich themselves in the process. a) Given these facts, what did Levi lose and gain by leaving this business? b) How does this explain the resentment of the Pharisees when they saw Jesus eating at Levi’s house?
- 3) Bridal Party.** Read Luke 5:33-35. a) How does his analogy of a bridal party explain why Jesus’ disciples weren’t in the habit of fasting? b) Based on his answer, do you think there’s any need for his followers to fast today? Why? Describe your own practice if you think it will help anyone in your group.
- 4) New Clothes and Wineskins.** Read Luke 5:36-38. a) What do you think the point of this parable about new clothes and wineskins is? In other words, what did Jesus intend for it to illustrate about the dramatic changes he was about to introduce by his death, resurrection, and gift of the Holy Spirit? b) Why was the Pharisees’ religion unable to incorporate the new life he gives us?

Bringing It Home

- 5) New Life.** Based on his meal at Levi’s house, one change Jesus wants to make in your life is the kind of people you’re willing to befriend. a) Give an example of someone very different from you that—a) you have befriended; b) you should befriend for Christ’s sake; and. c) the specific step you will take this week to do so.