



Party Evangelism

MAIN THING

Want to bring people to Jesus? Throw a party

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:27-31, Matthew 28:19-20, Matthew 5:13-16, Acts 11:24

ICEBREAKER

Three things I would do immediately if I were invisible are . . .

OPENING THOUGHT

Jesus' disciple, Matthew (also known as Levi) did something pretty amazing after meeting Jesus. Being a tax collector, Matthew's group of friends were not the most upstanding citizens. They were scoundrels, swindlers, prostitutes, etc. So immediately after becoming Jesus' disciple, Matthew throws a party. He invites all of his lost friends to his house and arranges the meeting between them and Jesus, with Jesus being the guest of honor.

Matthew, as a brand new convert/disciple, understood the mission of Jesus far better than many who have been followers of Jesus for years or decades. It was the lost, not the righteous, who needed Jesus. Jesus states His mission in verse 32- "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." If that's what Jesus' mission is, it should be ours as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. On a scale of 1-10, with one being "not at all" and ten being "my number one priority" how important to you is reaching the lost?
3. In the sermon, there were three things that salt does and three things that light does. Salt 1) preserves, 2) flavors, and 3) creates thirst. Light 1) defeats darkness, 2) reveals what you previously couldn't see, and 3) shows you the path forward. How can the church be salt and light to this community and engage in Jesus' mission to reach the lost? Be specific.
4. How can the church use its incredible tool of community to reach the lost? How can we do community better in order to follow the example of Matthew in his passage?

LIFE APPLICATION

The heartbreaking thing is that most Christians will say that reaching the lost is incredibly important to them, but they don't actually reach any lost people. Only about one out of ten Christians will ever lead another person to Christ during their lifetime. Only about 2% of church members will ever invite a non-Christian friend to church over the course of a year. Our beliefs and our actions don't line up in this area, and if even a quarter of Christians would take this seriously, churches would be booming. Our nation would look very different. Our schools, our communities, our neighborhoods would all be very different.

CHALLENGE

As a small group, discuss ways you can "have a Matthew party" to introduce non-Christians to Jesus.