

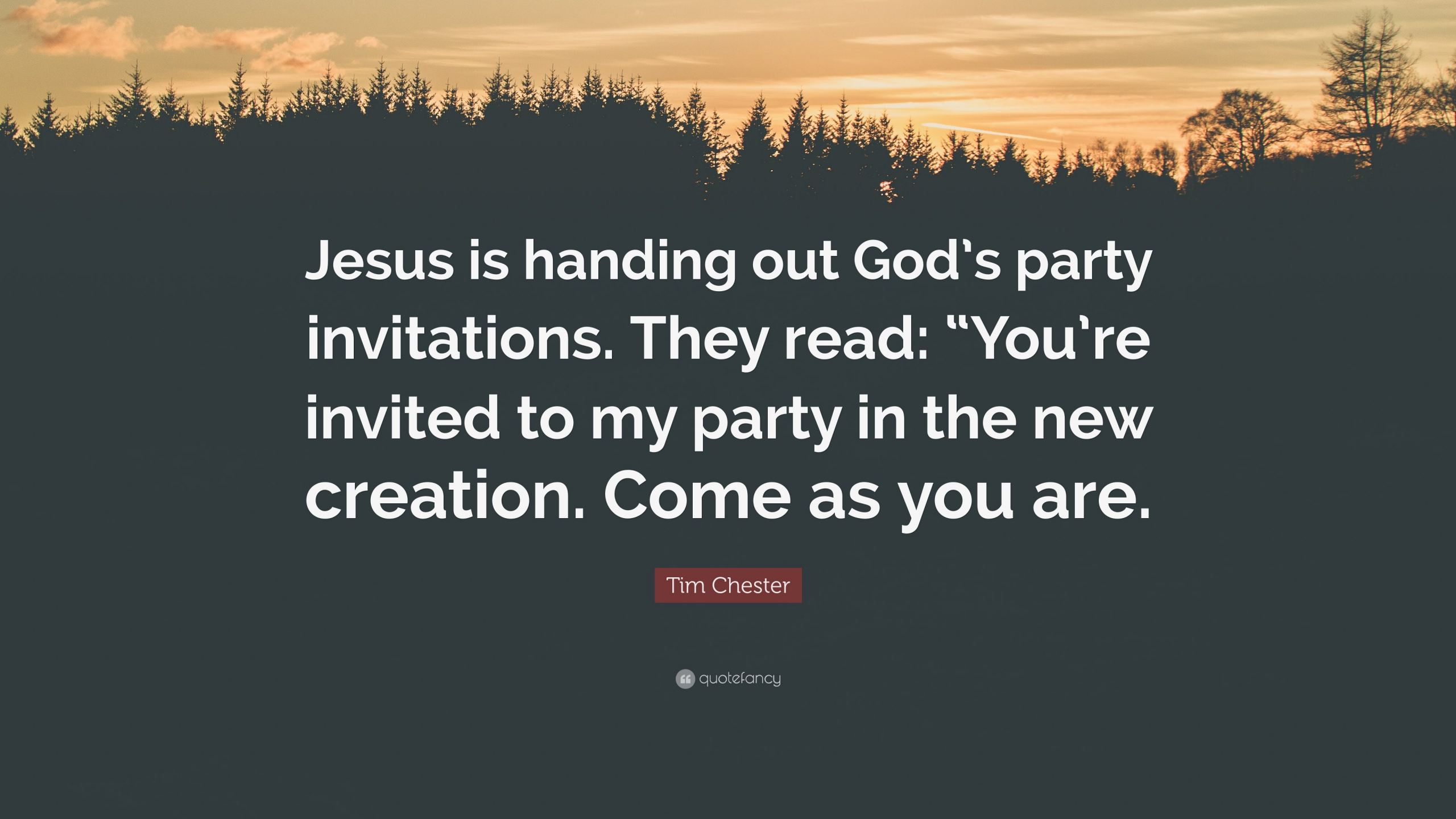


Tax Collector's Party

Meals with Jesus Series

Solid Rock Church

Pastor Elliott Anderson

A sunset over a forest of evergreen trees. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with a few wispy clouds. The trees are silhouetted against the bright sky. A thin white line, possibly a power line or a trail, stretches across the sky from the right side towards the center.

Jesus is handing out God's party invitations. They read: "You're invited to my party in the new creation. Come as you are."

Tim Chester

THE BIG QUESTION

Dr. Eli González

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS ALWAYS SO SERIOUS?



“A focus on serious Bible study can sometimes lead to an unhelpful default posture of seriousness. We might appear restrictive or “boring,” and therefore unappealing and unattractive to sinners. We must have the joy of Jesus!”

Joyful Jesus!

He loves you

He delights in you

He rejoices in you

He laughs with you

His joy is in you



Joyful Jesus Verses in Gospels

Luke 10: 21, Jesus "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" and was filled with joy after his disciples returned from a preaching mission.

Matthew 18:13, And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the 99 that weren't lost.

John 15:11, Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full".

The Joy of Jesus

Psalm 16: 11, You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Hebrews 12: 2, ...for the joy that was set before Him, Jesus endured the cross.



Barna Group Research on Fun Family and Church



Families that intentionally cultivate a fun environment often have stronger, more engaged spiritual lives.

Playful activities within church groups reduce cortisol (stress) and increase oxytocin (bonding hormone).

IT'S PARTY TIME

Jesus at Parties

14 meals with groups in the Gospels

21 festivals celebrated by Jews in His 3-year ministry

35 meals / banquets!



Meals with Jesus Series

April 12	Breakfast on the Beach	John 21: 9 – 14
TODAY	Tax Collector's Party	Luke 5: 27 – 39
April 26	Simon's House	Luke 7: 36 – 50
May 3	The 5,000	Luke 9: 10 - 17
May 10	Mary and Martha's	Luke 10: 38 - 42
May 17	One Sabbath	Luke 14: 1 – 11

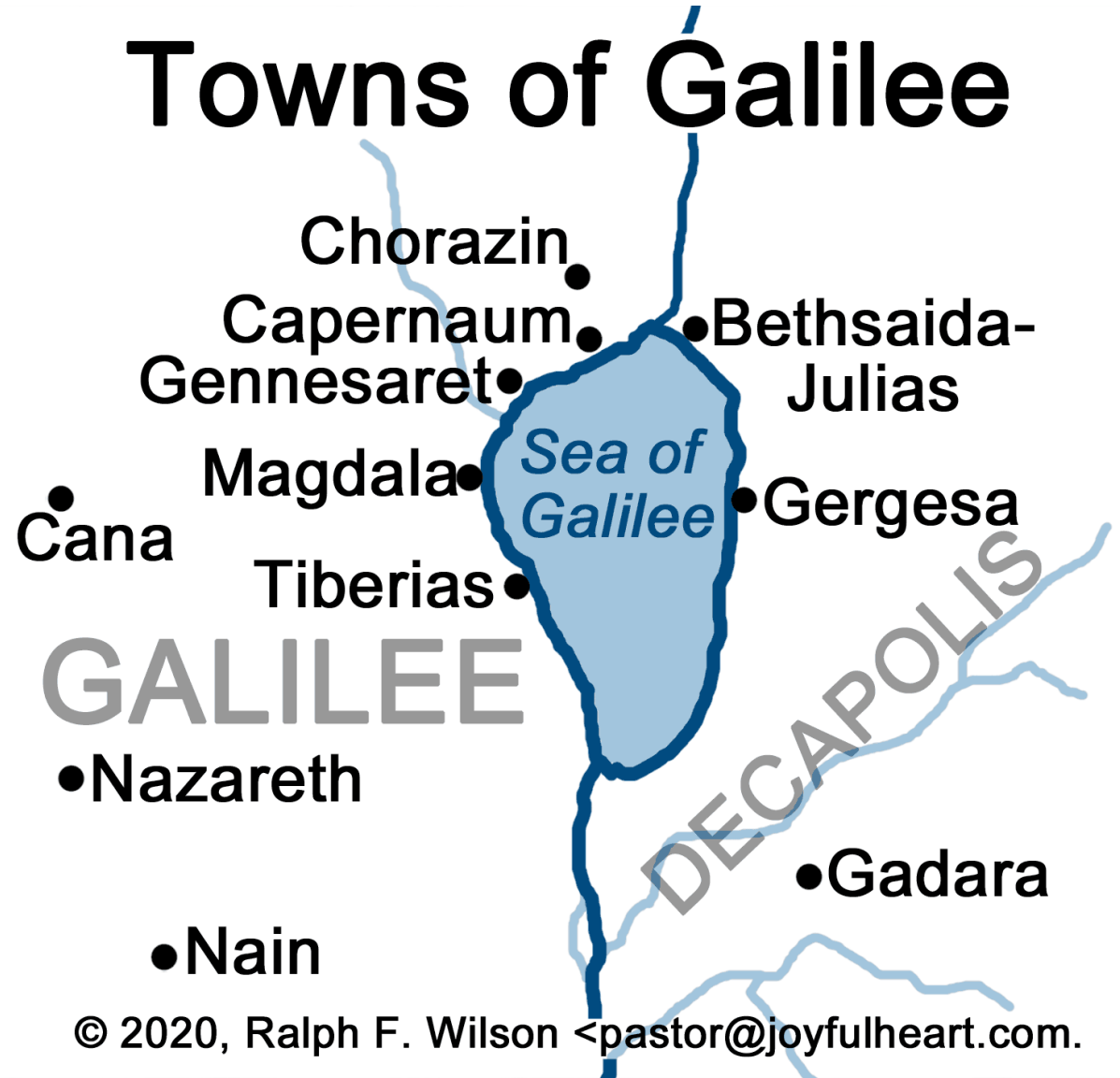
Luke 5 Context

1 – 11, Calling of Andrew and Peter, James and John

12 – 26, Healing a man with leprosy, healing a paralytic in Capernaum.

27 – 32, Calling of Matthew
Banquet at Matthew's House

Towns of Galilee



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Luke 5: 27 – 28

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed Him.



Who was Levi? Who was Matthew?

Levi was Matthew's given Hebrew name.

Jesus gave Levi the new name of Matthew

Jesus gave Simon the new name of Peter

Jesus gave Saul the new name of Paul

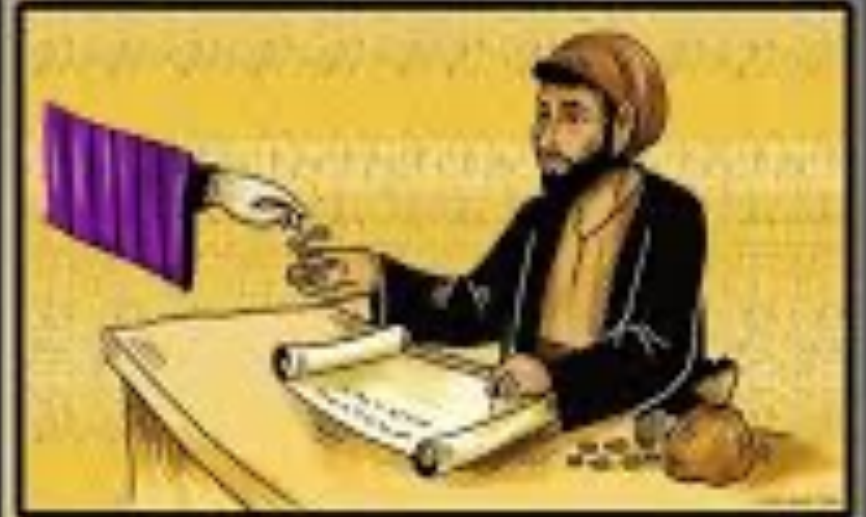
Name changes signified a symbolic calling.

A new life – a new mission – a new name!

Matthew (Levi)

Role: Tax collector turned disciple.

Key Moments: Hosted a feast for Jesus, authored the Gospel of Matthew.



Ministry: Preached in Ethiopia and the Middle East.

Martyrdom: Killed by a spear in Ethiopia.

Empowered by Words by Esther



Roman Tax Collectors

Rome auctioned the rights of tax collectors to private individuals in each city known as publicans.

The (publicans) local tax collectors could charge whatever they wanted on top of Rome's percentage.

Roman Tax Booths

Positioned at city gates, bridges, and major crossroads

They served as “toll” stations to collect the taxes and duties.

To the Jews, the tax booth was a symbol of foreign, oppressive rule.



Luke 5: 29

Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.



Banquets / Parties in Jewish Culture

Jewish banquets in the 1st century were heavily influenced by Greek and Roman practices.

The host opportunity reflected your social status

It featured elaborate food and free-flowing wine

Crucial social events for building your reputation

Important political maneuvers for favor and honor

Banquet with Tax Collectors?

Symbolized God's grace, radical inclusion, and His mission to seek the lost, deliberately breaking social and religious taboos.



Luke 5: 30

But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to the disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”





Pharisees and Tax Collectors

Pharisees believed God's grace extended only to those who kept the law.

Tax collectors were sinners – outcasts who couldn't serve as witnesses in the courts and were expelled from the Synagogue.

Pharisees Position on Christ's Sin?!?

Pharisees believed holiness was achieved by being separated from the wicked sinners like Tax Collectors.

Exodus 34: 12-16, Israelites were warned not to make covenants with Canaanite nations or participate in their idolatrous feasts, which often involved eating sacrifices dedicated to foreign gods.



Luke 5: 31

Jesus answered them (the Pharisees), “Those who are well have no need for a doctor, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector

Luke 18: 9 – 14, To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

Punchline of the Parable of The Pharisee and Tax Collector

14, “I tell you that the tax collector, rather than the Pharisee, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



Jesus / Pharisees Issues

Luke 15: 2, And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

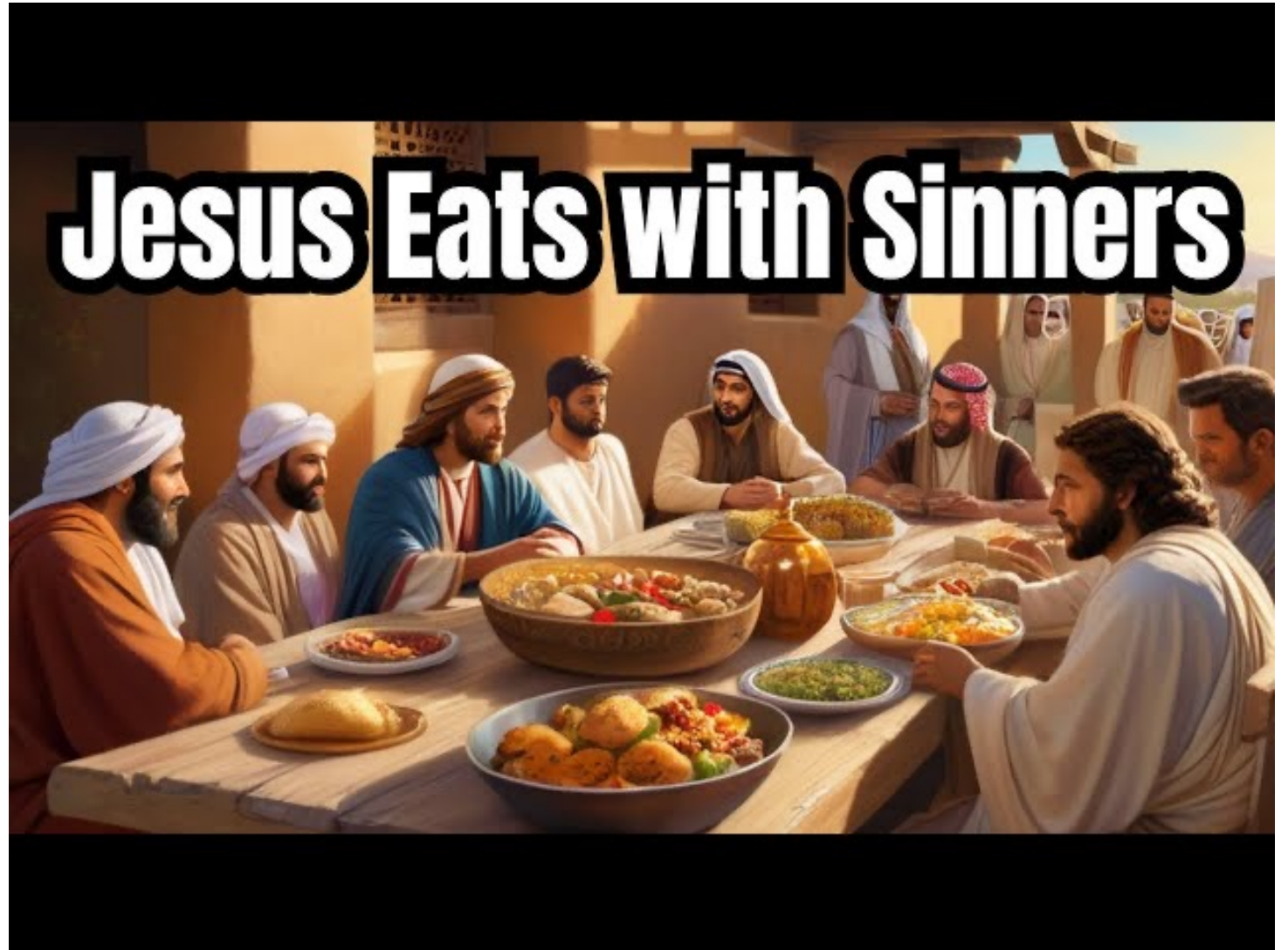
Luke 15: 7, I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 19: 10, For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Do we share meals
with non-believers?

Do we invite non-
believers out to
dinner?

To our homes?



Jesus: Hospitality with the Least of These

Matthew 25: 37 - 40, ...‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Jesus: Sinfulness with the Least of These

Matthew 25: 42 – 46, For I was hungry. and you gave me no food, I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. Then they also will answer, saying, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?” Then Jesus will answer them, saying, “Truly I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Your Banquet Party Group?

Non-believers
Non-whites
Non-straight
Non-republicans
Non-democrats
Addicts
Muslims
Buddhists

