

Social Renewal

Luke 5:27-32 | Ryan Pfeiffer | Jan. 19, 2025

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INTRO. Do you know how you know you are caught in the riptide of Renewal?

When you're so in love with Jesus you want to share him with everyone!

Levi's so in love w/ Jesus that he can't help but want everyone to know him.

Jesus doesn't only renew us... but renews all of our relationships.

But in what way? What can we expect?

FOCUS. When we walk in step w/ the Spirit of Jesus... The Spirit will renew our relationships in 2 key ways.

- Jesus moves into the center.
- We become His invitation.

JESUS MOVES INTO THE CENTER. 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.

Notice the seamless move: "Follow me" —> Jesus meeting all Levi's friends...

In one move... Levi introduces Jesus to his entire relational network... friends, co-workers... ALL OF THEM... "large crowd"...

Inviting Jesus into his home and relationships represents what it means to allow Jesus to move into the center of our life.

With every relationship we bring Jesus into... Jesus fills more of our life...

Our family... our friendships... our soccer/ lacrosse/ Football team... our work

It's how his fruit of the Spirit renews our whole heart w/ his faithfulness, gentleness, generosity, joy, kindness, love...

He heals the wounds... frees us from old identities... he breaks old habits...

1. Jesus came into the center of rel w/ Dad... healing from wounds there.
2. Jesus came into the center of friendship... bad habits of partying...
3. Jesus came into the center of rel/ soccer... freed my ID rooted in sport...

ILLUS... HUSBAND AND WIFE... Praying with his wife...

WE BECOME HIS INVITATION. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Jesus has a purpose... he wants to renew the lives of Levi's friends!

Social renewal happens when Jesus love takes over our relationships!



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2 Cor 4:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

God's love becomes the compelling purpose and power in our friendships...

What does Levi do... he simply invites his friends to meet/ learn about Jesus.

Levi didn't try & save his friends... convert his friends... only Jesus does that!

We believe Jesus is alive... He alone renews hearts... saves lives...

Levi simply invited friends to meet Jesus... But that takes courage!!

ILLUS... BECKET COOK story... Slide 1: Photo shoots. Slide 2/3: Annie

- Shared sermons
- Met for coffee
- Invited her to church

What does it mean for us?

- Pray for our friends... God show my friends your love... show me what you are doing in their life.
- Be relational... get to know their needs...listen struggles... serve them...
- Talk about Jesus... put his name out there... let Jesus shine...
- Invite people.... Church, Alpha, to parties with friends from church.

"My job— my joy comes from sharing the good news of Jesus with people. I point to him and he does all the heavy thinking. I don't have to convince anybody of anything." —Carl Medearis. Speaking of Jesus.

EXPECT PUSHBACK.

FRIENDS/FAMILY.

ILLUS. "My old friend Jacob brusquely responded, 'I'm happy for you, but don't try to save me!' —Becket Cook.

Don't be thrown off... don't be discouraged... meet people where they're at.

CHURCH. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained...

Why did they complain? Many were earnest and sincere...

We start to see Church as first for ourselves... our comforts... preferences!

Calvary Chapel history... dirty hippies... pulled carpet out! New Music!!!

"In this way spiritual renewal involves not just individuals but also communities of people learning to live together in the way of Jesus. With this comes forgiveness and reconciliation, repaired marriages, the breaking of generational sins, and the healing of broken hearts." —Jon Tyson, Kingdom Vision.

HOW CAN WE LEAN INTO SOCIAL RENEWAL?



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We as a church are committed to coming alongside you to help you.

SHOW VIDEO. I want to introduce you to Alpha.

What is Alpha? Its a safe place for seekers, curious to ask the big questions of life and faith without judgment.

8 Weeks of gathering around great food... short teachings about Jesus... discussion groups... with honest conversations... questions... doubts...

1. I'll be teaching... Mark Foreman... Nic... Others...

SOCIAL RENEWAL SLIDE.

Next Steps with Alpha.

- If you're seeker... curious... invited by a friend... Try Alpha... _____
- For Jesus followers here... learn more about how Alpha can help you introduce your friends to Jesus...

ALPHA SLIDE: Dates to learn more.

Becket Cook, A Change of Affections.

Slide 1: I could not control myself from sharing the gospel while working on photo shoots. I told everyone on the set about Jesus and shared my testimony with anyone and everyone who would listen. I had the best news in the world to share and I was going to share it! I no longer saw my work as just a means to make money but as an opportunity to share the good news. Several people I worked with on shoots came to know Christ; others are still seeking slowly.

Slide 2: She asked what about being gay? Why would you be a part of something that was against who you are?"

Slide 3: When I told her how by finding Jesus I finally found the. Love and fulfillment I had been looking for, it shook her up.