

“HE WAS A FRIEND OF SINNERS”

Luke 5:27-32

“I’m holding out for Grace. I’m holding out that Jesus took my sins onto the Cross, because I know who I am, and I hope I don’t have to depend on my own religiosity. Christ took on the sins of the world, so that what we put out did now come back to us. It should keep us humbled. It’s not our own good works that get us through the gates of Heaven.” Bono

The Issue in the 1st Century:

The Issue in the 21st Century:

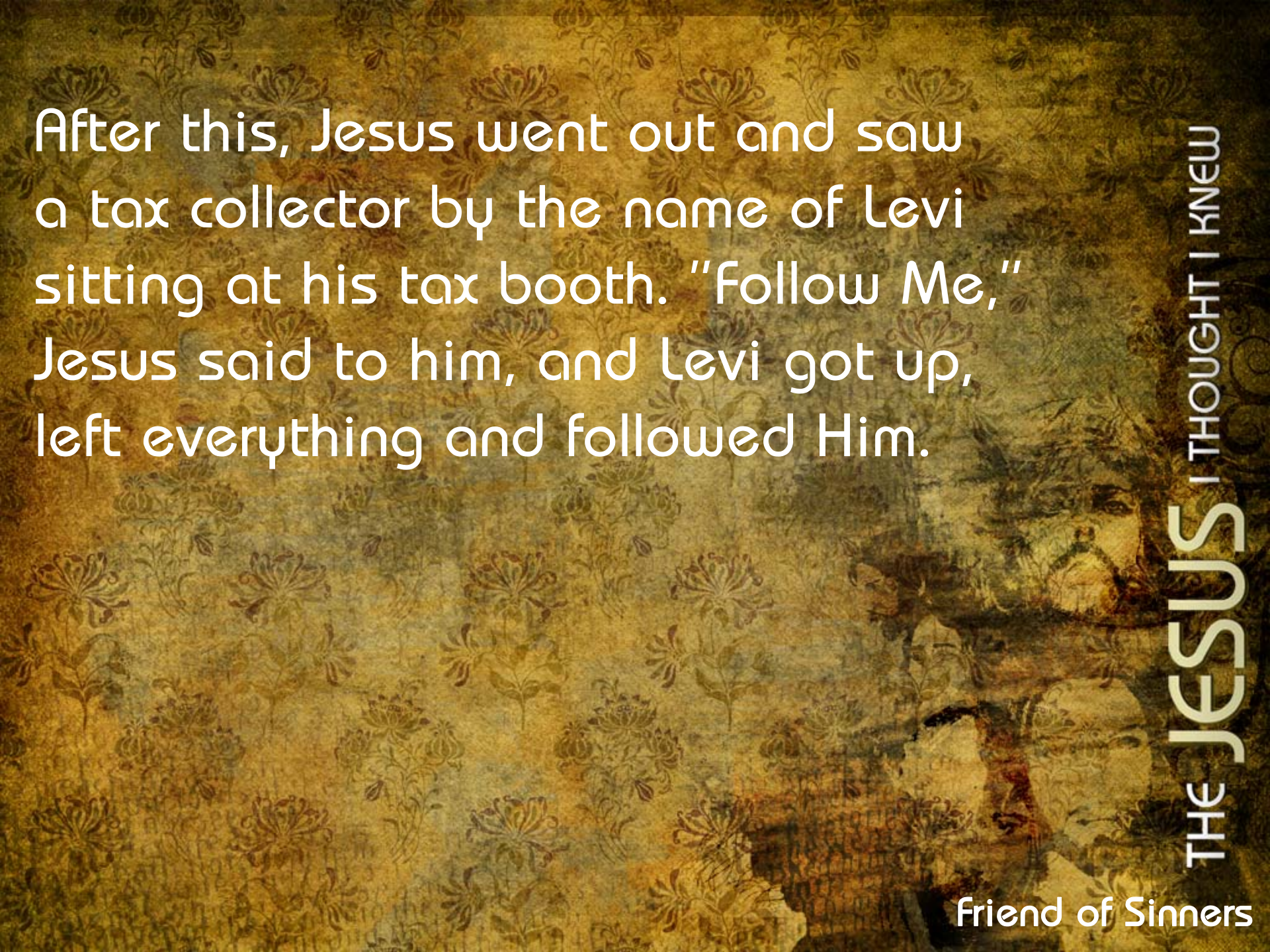
The Issue with Me:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are your neighbors benefiting from having a follower of Christ (You!) as a neighbor?
2. How are your coworkers benefiting from having a follower of Christ (You!) as a coworker?
3. How would your unchurched friends describe Christianity and the church? How have you helped to improve their image of Christianity? How have you added to the negative stereotype of Christianity?
4. Who’s coming to dinner? Plan your own “Matthew Party.”



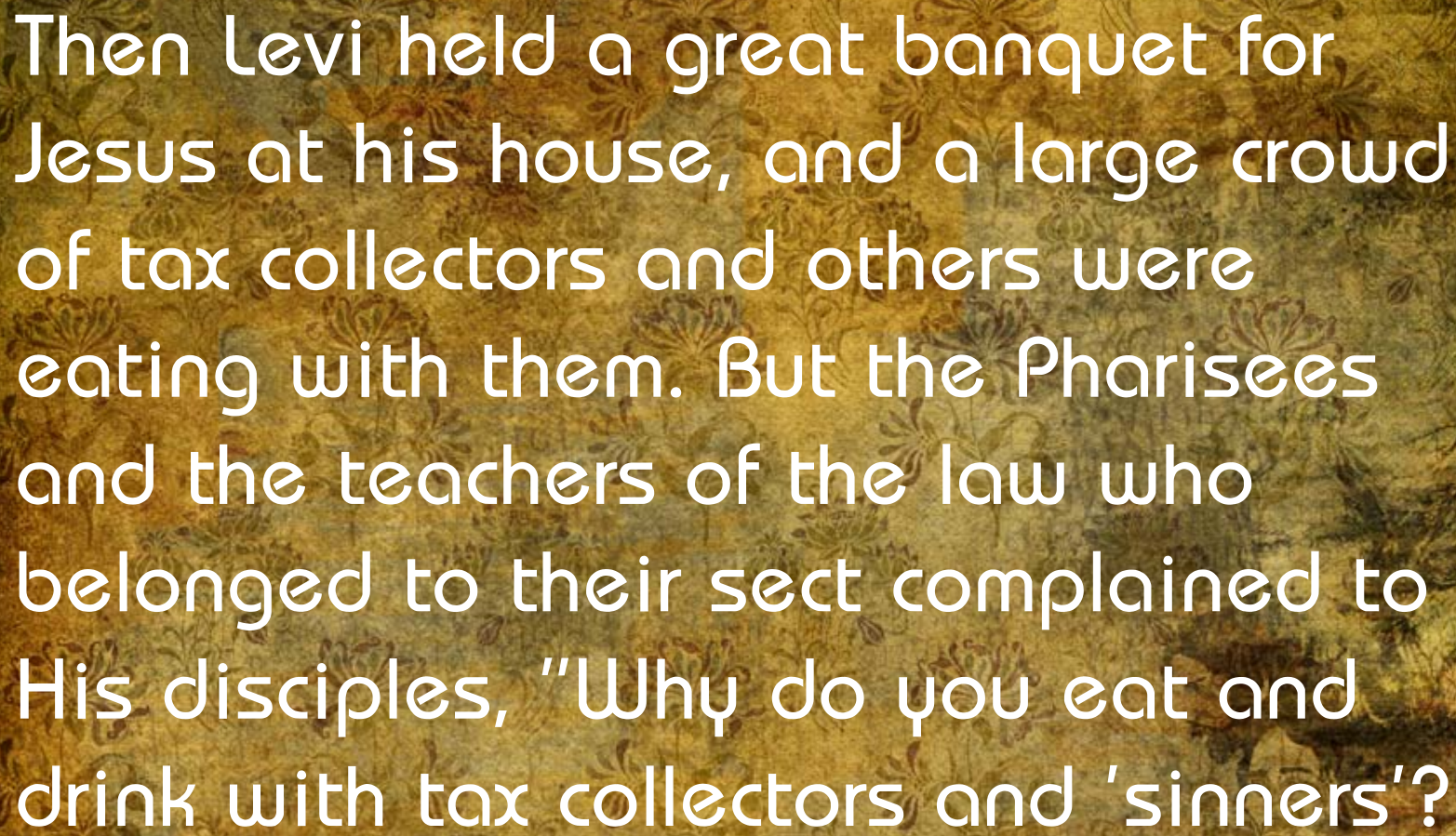
THE JESUS I THOUGHT I KNEW



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.

THE JESUS I THOUGHT I KNEW

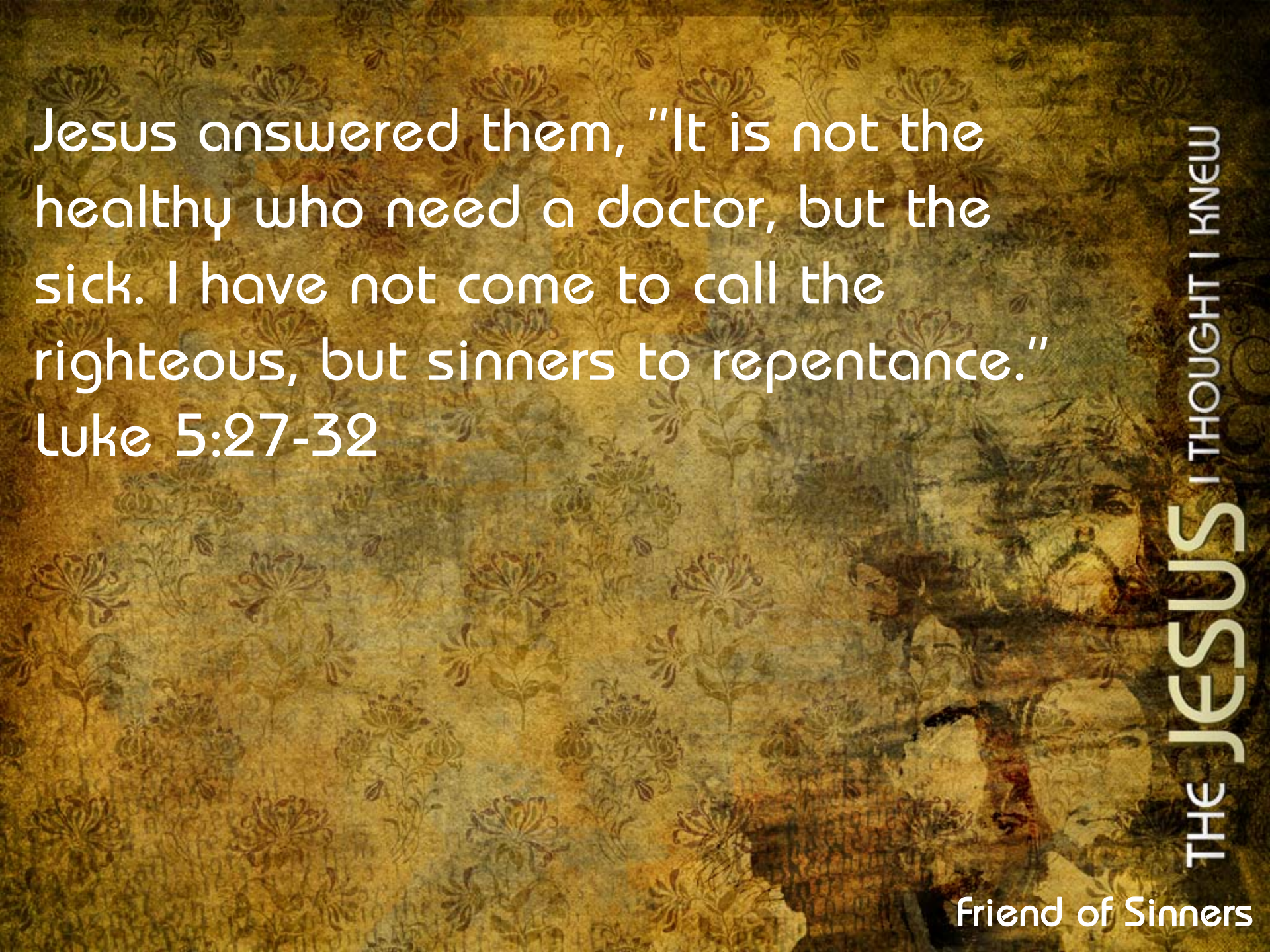
Friend of Sinners



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

THE JESUS I THOUGHT I KNEW

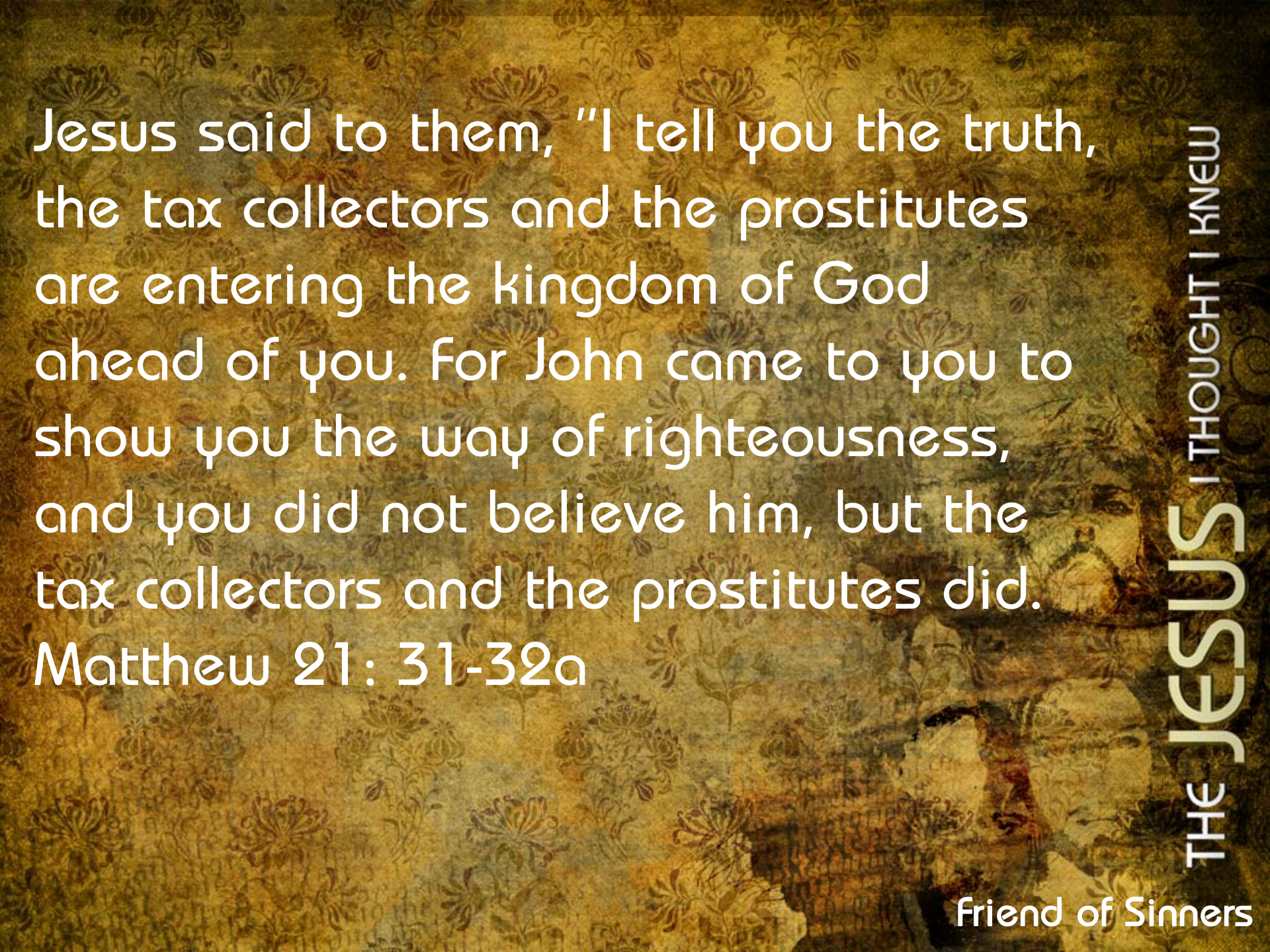
Friend of Sinners



Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
Luke 5:27-32

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Friend of Sinners



Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did.

Matthew 21: 31-32a

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The Issue in the 21st Century:

Christianity is...

- Judgmental (87%)
- Hypocritical (85%)
- Old-fashioned (78%)
- Too involved in politics (75%)
- Out of touch with reality (72%)
- Insensitive to others (70%)
- Boring (68%)
- Anti-homosexual (91%)

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The Issue in the 21st Century:

Christianity is Un-Christian!

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The Issue with Me:

- We need to out-love them.
- We need to out-live them.
- We need to keep the main thing
- the main thing!

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