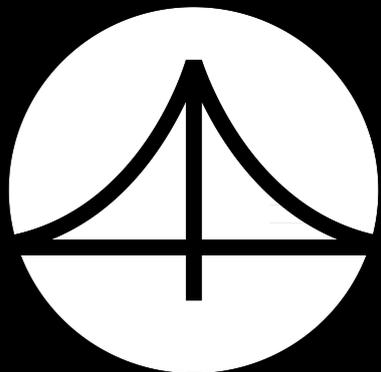


# Transforming Faith: Joins the Party

Luke 5:27-32



**Transforming faith joins the  
party and invites the outcasts  
to become insiders**

# An Unexpected Invitation

- Levi = Matthew
- Tax collectors were outcasts
- Jesus calling Levi to follow Him would be a surprising decision to society and the rest of the disciples

**“Levi presumably doesn’t even close the account books. He gets up out of his chair, leaves his cash register, his ledger, his receipts, his lucrative business and began to follow Christ.”**

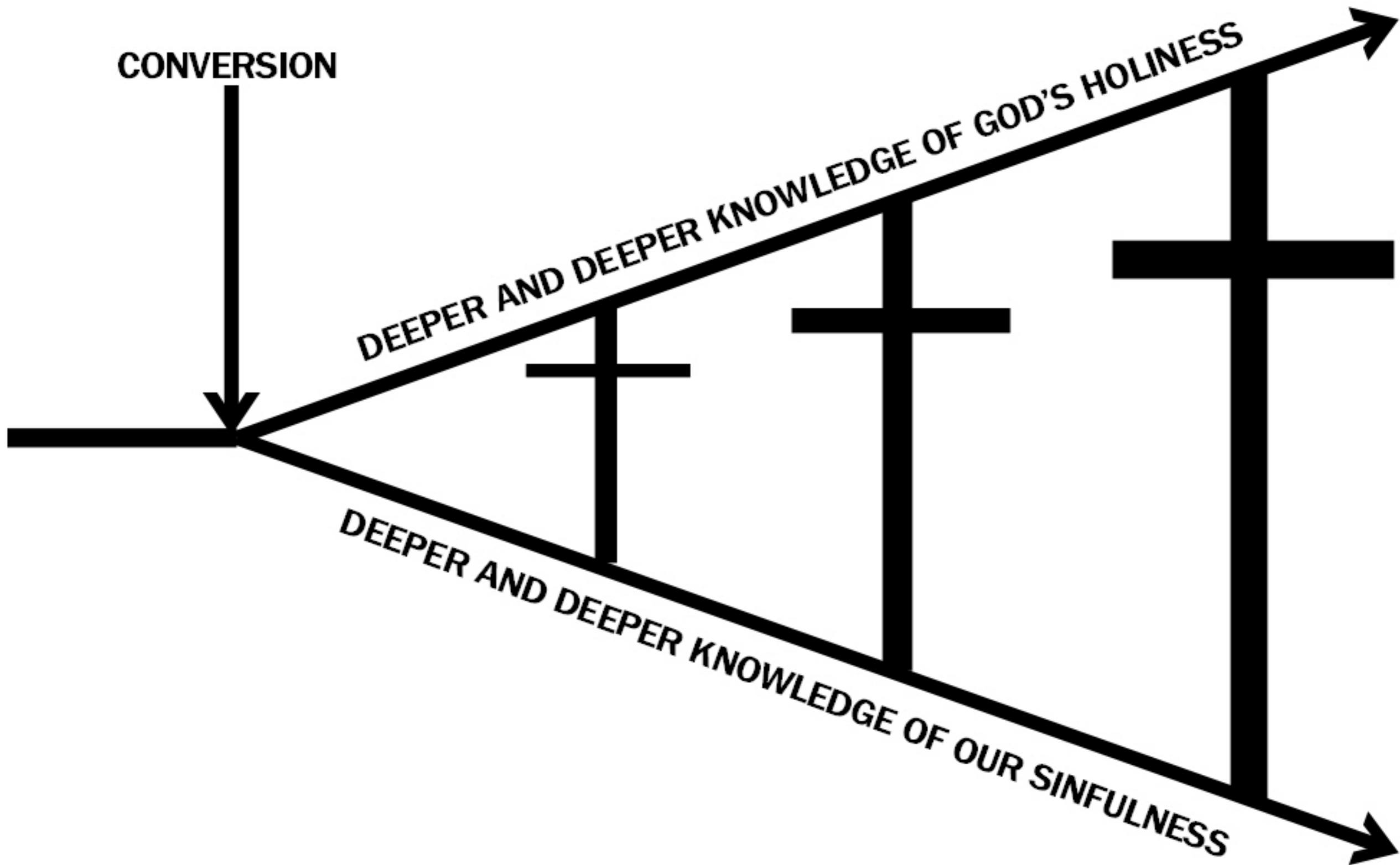
*– RC Sproul*

# An Unexpected Invitation

- Levi left a lucrative job with no guarantee except that he'd get to be with Jesus
- Do you see Jesus as so valuable that it's worth facing danger and making sacrifices to be with Him?

# A Controversial Party

- Levi throws a party to introduce Jesus to his friends
- The guest list is the outcasts of society
- The religious leaders grumble because they see themselves as better and more valuable than the people Jesus is eating with
- The gospel: I am far more sinful than I ever dare imagine, but far more loved than I ever dare hope



# A Controversial Party

- When we start relying on ourselves instead of Jesus for salvation, we start drawing clear lines between insiders and outsiders and trying to set up boundaries to keep the outsiders out
- Jesus' goal is to tear down the walls and invite outsiders to become insiders
- Who are the people you see as unworthy of your love?
- Jesus calls us to love and accept people radically, but also to call them to repentance

# An Upside-Down Mission

- Jesus didn't come to reach "good people," He came for those who know they're a mess
- Christian maturity doesn't mean outgrowing our need for Jesus, it means becoming more dependent on Him each day
- Is your daily spiritual life marked by desperation for Jesus or attempts at independence?

