

The Chiasm of Luke 5:29-32

A chiasm is a literary structure where vocabulary of the first section of a passage is repeated in the second. The center of the chiasm is typically the climax of the passage. In Luke 5:29-32 the center and climax is where Jesus says, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick" (Luke 5:31).

A And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and **sinners**?" (5:29-30)

B And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those **who are** well who need a physician, (5:31a)

B' but those **who are** sick.(5:31b)

A' I have not come to call the righteous but **sinners** to repentance." (5:32)