

Highlighting and Humanizing

This lesson is about how Luke shows how Jesus highlighted some very special people to demonstrate their tremendous value to God. These same people were despised and rejected by the Jewish elitists.

As you read through the book of Luke, you will find Jesus drawing attention to many people that the Jewish leadership despised and considered worthless outcasts. He publicly shined the divine spotlight on these people to draw attention to their value and their amazing character. Tax collectors. Harlots. Roman Centurions. Gentiles. Samaritans. Lepers. Women. All those who were not valued at all by the Jewish leadership in those days. In fact, Jesus frequently pointed out that the Scribes and Pharisees treated livestock better than they did these children of God.

When he highlights the special people, he often will ask questions. "Do you see this woman?" "Who touched me?" "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?"

In these discussions, Jesus will make sure that the humanity and value of these people are clearly made known. Jesus, as the Lord, made man in His own image, so he understands more than anyone that each person has incredible value. Each soul was precious to him. Jesus asked a Pharisee, "Do you see this woman?" Look at her and see her value and great faith! The very sick woman who pushed through the crowds to touch the hem of Jesus' garment was called "daughter" by Jesus. He called the woman who was severely bent over for 18 years a "daughter of Abraham." The man with the withered hand had a "life" which Jesus wanted to save. The Gentile Roman Centurion, according to Jesus, had a faith that was greater than anyone of the nation of Israel.

Man is Made in God's Own Image

- Jesus is God. He took human form (John 1:1-3,14,18). He is the image of God (Colossians 1).
- Keep this in mind – Man is made in God's image. Jesus knew that. He constantly drew attention to the humanity and value of people that others around him failed to see (especially the Jewish leaders).
- Man is either created in God's image (a little lower than the angels) or has evolved (a little higher than the monkeys). Those are two very different worldviews and the value of a human being greatly depends upon your worldview.
- Murder is wrong because man is made in God's own image.
 - Killing an animal is not the same in God's eyes as killing another human being.
 - Genesis 9:5-6; Exodus 21:12-14; Leviticus 24:17-18; Numbers 35:31; Deuteronomy 19:11-12.
- Speaking ill of people is wrong because they are made in God's image (James 3:9).

There is great power in pointing out the humanity and value of a human life.

- [Mister Rogers was one of the best around for highlighting some very special people](#). I believe he got the concept very well that Jesus was teaching.
- The [Germans saw with their own eyes what happened in the concentration camps](#). Before it was just a distant subject that really didn't affect them. Then they were walked through the camps.
- When [a mother has an ultrasound and sees her baby, the rates of those who have abortions drops dramatically](#).
- A criminal has to face his accusers / family to see the pain and suffering he has inflicted upon other human beings.

Here are some examples in Luke where Jesus Highlighted and Humanized people.

- Luke 6:6-11
 - Jesus knew the wicked thoughts of the Jewish leaders (vs. 8).
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - He called the man with the withered hand to him (vs. 8).
 - Jesus was the teacher, and he called this poor man to a place of prominence in the synagogue.
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - **Jesus' question in vs. 9** – *"I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?"*
 - They valued their religious views more than a human life.
- Luke 7:1-10
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - Jesus marveled!
 - This centurion had a faith that no one else in Israel had (vs. 9).
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - Jesus treated this Gentile with great honor.
 - He placed great value on this human soul, even if he was not of Israel.
 - Capernaum – This happens in Capernaum where Jesus did many of his miracles (Matthew 11:23)!
 - The reports of Jesus' miracles were spreading.
 - All the centurion had heard were REPORTS, but he BELIEVED (vs. 3)!
- Luke 7:24-28
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - He spoke to the crowds about John (vs. 24).
 - There is no person in Israel who has arisen that's greater than John (vs. 28).
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - Of those born of women, not has arisen who is greater (vs. 28).
 - Jesus tells the crowd – This is a great man!
 - **Jesus' Question** – *What then did you go out to see? (vs. 24,25, 26).*
 - What were your expectations about John?
- Luke 7:36-50
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - Jesus turns to the woman, and then calls attention to her in front of Simon.
 - Do you see this woman?
 - He highlights this woman, her love, her humility, her kindness, none of which was shown by Simon the Pharisee, in whose house Jesus was eating that night.
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - She is a person who has value.
 - She has sins, she has a soul, and she loves much because she has been forgiven.
 - It was clear to Jesus and the woman that this woman was a sinner. Simon didn't have to be so concerned that Jesus was unaware of this woman's condition.
 - **Jesus' Question** – *Do you see this woman? (vs. 44)*

- Luke 8:42-48
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - Jesus didn't have to stop in the crowd, but He knew the faith of this woman with the blood issue who just reached out to touch his garment.
 - The disciples walked right by an incredible woman of faith who just did something amazing! Jesus wanted them to know!
 - "She was not hidden...In the presence of all the people..." (vs. 47).
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - He called her, "Daughter" (vs. 48)
 - She wasn't just a face in the crowd...to Jesus she had tremendous value.
 - **Jesus' Question** – *Who touched Me? (vs. 45)*
- Luke 13:10-17
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - He called her over – Once again he was teaching in the synagogue and brought her to his place of prominence in the synagogue (vs. 12).
 - "And ought not this woman..." (vs. 16). He pointed her out to these hypocritical men.
 - These men were put to shame publicly (vs. 17).
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - Woman, you are freed from your disability (vs. 12)
 - And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham... (vs. 16)
 - **Jesus' Question** – *You hypocrites! Does not each of you untie his ox or donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? (vs. 15).*
- Luke 14:1-6
 - He accepted an invitation to dinner on the Sabbath.
 - A man with dropsy was there. This was some swelling condition.
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - The Jewish leaders were "watching him carefully" (vs. 1).
 - Jesus knew what those men were up to, so he asks a question before he heals.
 - He is highlighting the value of this sick man – The Jewish leadership cared more for donkeys than a human life.
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - He showed that if they would do these things for their sons or donkeys, that they should do it for this man, even if it was on the Sabbath.
 - **Jesus' Questions**
 - *"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not? (vs. 5).*
 - *"Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out? (vs. 5)*
- Luke 15
 - The leadership once again did not see the value of helping lost sinners.
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - Jesus is highlighting the kind of people that will be in his kingdom.
 - He is eating with sinners. Even with all the criticism, he makes a public show of eating with the outcasts who are despised by the Jewish elite.
 - In the parable of the Prodigal Son, he highlights the younger brother (the sinners coming to Jesus) with the elder brother (the Jewish leadership).

- **HUMANIZING**
 - His parables humanize and personalize the preciousness of each human being, each soul.
 - The elder brother calls the younger brother, “this son of yours,” (vs. 30) but the Father responds by calling the younger brother “this YOUR BROTHER” (vs. 32).
 - The elites valued their sheep and their self-righteousness more than their fellow humans.
- **Jesus’ question** – Which of you...won’t pursue your lost sheep? (vs. 4)
 - Again, Jesus shows that they cared more for their animals than their fellow human beings, even their Jewish brethren who were lost in sin.
- Luke 19:1-10
 - Zacchaeus was a wee little man...remember the song?
 - Here is a man of short stature that had a giant faith.
 - A tax collector – He is a Jew who works for the Roman government collecting taxes on the Jews.
 - **HIGHLIGHTING**
 - Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus’ house.
 - He did it in such a way that everyone saw what he was going.
 - **HUMANIZING**
 - Look at the contrast. Those around were disgusted and offended that Jesus would go into Zacchaeus’ house and eat with him!
 - But how did Jesus see Zacchaeus? **“He is also a son of Abraham” (Luke 19:9).**
 - Luke 19:9-10 – *And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*