

The Important People Aren't Who You Think They Are!

1. Jesus began his ministry by declaring that his purpose in coming was to reach those the culture considered unimportant
 - A. His proclamation in the temple – Luke 4:18-21 (996)
2. Examples of the Gospel reaching the unimportant
 - A. The parable of the unjust judge – Luke 18:1-8 (1016)
 - 1) The widow was the powerless victim of an unjust judge
 - 2) God values those who are victims of injustice – Micah 6:8 (903)
 - 3) How do we demonstrate that we value victims of injustice?
 - B. The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector – Luke 18:9-14 (1016)
 - 1) The Pharisee exalted himself while the tax collector was humbled
 - 2) God values the humble and broken – Psalm 51:17 (556)
 - 3) How do we support those who are truly broken?
 - C. The example of the little children – Luke 18:15-17 (1016)
 - 1) The disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus
 - 2) God values the children – Proverbs 22:6 (636); Ephesians 6:4 (1137)
 - 3) How do we demonstrate concern for children?
 - D. The rich man and the kingdom of heaven – Luke 18:18-30 (1016)
 - 1) The rich man wanted heaven, but he loved his riches more
 - 2) God values those who are not self-sufficient – 2 Corinthians 3:5 (1120); John 15:5 (1046)
 - 3) How do we reject self-sufficiency and show reliance on God?
 - E. The request of the blind beggar – Luke 18:35-43 (1017)
 - 1) The blind man sought mercy from Jesus
 - 2) God values those in need of mercy – Psalm 51:1 (556); Psalm 103:8-12 (587)
 - 3) How do we show mercy to those in need of mercy?
 - F. The example of Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10 (1017)
 - 1) Zacchaeus had all the symbols of importance: power and wealth
 - 2) Zacchaeus also had an infamous history
 - 3) God values people with a history of sin – Luke 5:27-32 (997)
 - 4) Zacchaeus repented and made restitution, demonstrating that he had changed
3. The Gospel requires us to value all people
 - A. We are instructed to not show favoritism – James 2:1-5, 8-10 (1173)
 - B. We are to put the interests of others ahead of our own – Philippians 2:3-8 (1139)