

Introduction: Jesus changed the world one person at a time

“One at a time” living starts with a zoom lens, learning how to focus on the _____.

The happiness paradox:

- Happiness is not obtained by focusing on yourself, but by focusing on others.
- “The afterglow of a pleasurable or selfish activity pales in comparison with the effects of one selfless act for someone else.”
- The idea of being other-centered is a counterintuitive and countercultural way to live.

Jesus “zooms in”

Luke 15 records three different parables that connect with a similar theme:

Jesus _____

Jesus _____

Jesus _____ one at a time

*¹ Now the **tax collectors** and **sinners** were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man **welcomes** sinners and **eats** with them.”*

Luke 15:1-2

- Jesus has a way of _____ on the very people the religious community cropped out.

Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Luke 5:31

- Jesus did two things: He _____ and _____ with the tax collectors and sinners.

³ So Jesus told them this story: ⁴ “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?

Luke 15:3-4

- When something belongs to you, you notice it because it’s _____.
- Prayer: Jesus, give me Your eyes. Help me to see people the way that You see people. Help me to have eyes for the one.

⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15:5-7

- Jesus loves people with a “zoom lens”. He sees them.
- Prayer: God, who’s the one person You want me to see?
- Jesus continually saw people throughout the Gospels and met their needs.

Sheep wander off because:

- They blindly _____ – their appetite causes them to move further and further away from the flock.
- They blindly _____ another sheep.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think of a time when someone made you feel special. How did they do that? What did it feel like to be “seen” at that moment? Are there any principles from that occasion that help you understand what it looks like to love people “one at a time”?
2. Though we all long to be seen, our world has a way of making us feel invisible. What are some practical ways we can show value to the people around us?
3. Who is one person you need to “see” this week? Make a plan to reach out to them in some way.