

Luke

The Gospel of Luke is written to a gentile audience, even though Jesus' main ministry was directed towards the nation of Israel (NIV Teen Study Bible pg. 1330). In light of this, the book's main theme is that Jesus cares for the overlooked; “the lost, the least, and the last.”(Dr. Buzz)

“Worthington Christian Schools exists to be used by God to disciple students to learn in harmony with God’s Word so that they may know, love and serve Jesus Christ”

(www.worthingtonchristian.com). This is the mission statement of the Worthington Christian school system. Students of this system are taught to “know, love and serve Jesus Christ” by following his teachings and through imitation.

Although it is a private christian school, Worthington Christian High School is still a human establishment and therefore riddled with flaws and imperfections. As with all high schools, and all of reality for that matter, Worthington Christian High School is filled with those who have been forgotten. In some cases the situation may actually be more extreme due to the fact that Christians as a whole, quite often fall into the trap of being judgmental. The tight knit fellowship between the long time students of Worthington Christian Schools can mutate into a state in which “non-lifers” have a difficult time being absorbed. Students switching into and out of Worthington Christian Schools have said that compared to public schools the students here were the meanest (Amanda Berry, former WCS student). This blot is dangerous to the outreach and testimony of Worthington Christian High School. In order to rectify the situation, students should look to Jesus' ministry as presented in the gospel of Luke for instruction.

In Luke 8:26-39 an amazing story is recorded. A preacher's favorite, the story of Jesus casting out the demon Legion into a herd of pigs (which promptly drowned) is powerful. Not only because it demonstrates Jesus' abilities as the son of God, but more importantly, it demonstrates his character. In ancient days livestock was used as capital, so when Jesus allowed the demons to kill the pigs, he was in essence burning the town's money (Mr. Baugher). Even with the possessed

man's salvation from the demons, the towns people were fearful for their belongings and asked Jesus to leave. Jesus was willing to sacrifice his ministry to the material minded townspeople in order to save one man who needed his help (Mr. Clutz). This theme is also played out in the parables of Luke 15:1-10. Both the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin involve a person who abandons many valuable things so that they may find the one that is lost.

Although these allegories are most often used in reference to salvation, and no one except God can grant a person's salvation, students at Worthington Christian High School can learn a great deal about how to live from them. Instead of worrying about one's status in the social hierarchy, they could abandon that and spend time with the forgotten ones. Imagine the ministry that could be achieved if five people each created a relationship with someone who they previously looked down on and in turn that person followed suit. The infamous "clique" social boundaries would dissolve in a matter of weeks. And now with the school "removing the plank from it's own eye" it can begin a religious revolution the likes of which have never been seen (Luke 6:41-42)!

The Gospel of Luke, like the rest of the Bible, was written in order to convey very powerful information which, if applied today, even to a single generation, will yield awe-inspiring results. The students at Worthington Christian High School can become this generation and shape the future in God's image, all it takes is a few people obeying Jesus' one simple command, "love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).