

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 14:11
Lesson #41
Humility
07/05/2020



Black Lives Matter

**Defund or Defend
the Police**

No Justice - No Peace

**Open or close
the borders,
the culture,
the records.**

Fake News

How should Christians respond?

1

“We’re tired of the national conversation centering on “What should we fear?” and “Who should we blame?”.”

Brene Brown



2

Four missteps of our age.

- **Restrict our problems to ECONOMICS.**
Both the political left and right tend to agree. It is over the means that they fight.
- **Restrict our perspective to the TEMPORAL.**
Hope centered in this life and time.
Sacrifice, suffering, & forbearance, are not viewed as virtuous options.
- **Restrict our priorities to SELF.**
Individualism, competition, & nationalism over community & self sacrifice.
- **Restrict our plans to POLITICS.**
Power & legislation without renewed hearts.

3

Peacemakers in a War Zone

Overview of Luke 14

1. Proverb: **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**

Luke 14:11

“For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and **he who humbles himself shall be exalted.**”

Matthew 5

“3 Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the **kingdom of heaven.**”

“5 Blessed are the **humble**, for they shall **inherit the earth.**”

“9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called **sons of God.**”

4



Peacemakers in a War Zone

Overview of Luke 14

1. Proverb: **God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.**
2. Parables: **Humility excludes self serving expectations and expressions.**

“27 Whoever does not **carry his own cross and come after Me** cannot be My disciple.”

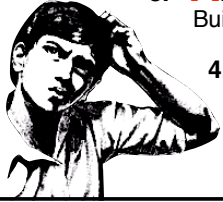
“34 Therefore, **salt is good**; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned?”

5

Peacemakers in a War Zone

Applicational bridge

1. **TONE** - down the rhetoric - Swords & shields do not enhance peace.
2. **EMPATHY** - Respectful listening - Work just as hard at understanding as at being understood.
3. **AFFIRMATION** - Common ground - Build on what we share in common.
4. **MINISTRY** - From strength to build up and affirm those who are passed over, left out, pushed down, and abused.



6

3. **AFFIRMATION** - common ground - Build on what we all share in common.

Common aspirations,

LIFE

that is secure, significant, & serene.

Common anxiety,

FEAR

Death - missing out on life.

Common authority,

WORLDVIEW (TRUTH)

“nature and nature’s God”



7

Christians share a common authority
with all humans

The founders of the USA
recognized this authority as:

“Nature and nature’s God”

Human Dignity / Depravity

Transcendent authority

Linear view of history

Moral accountability

8

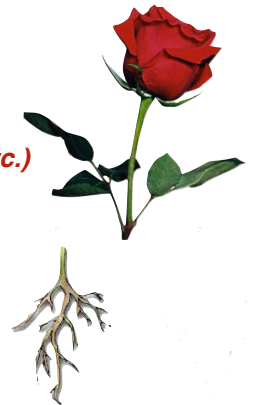
“Getting it together”
(being true to ourselves)

**respecting
the flower**

(beauty, happiness, meaning, etc.)

**without
rejecting
the root**

(transcendent authority)



9

Is the only basis for ethics the survival of DNA?

“Humans have always wondered about the meaning of life. . . life has no higher purpose than to perpetuate the survival of DNA . . . life has no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.”



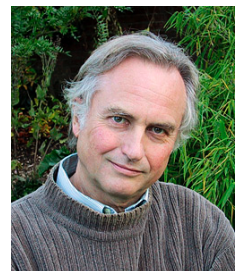
Richard Dawkins
(Atheist, evolutionary biologist)

10

Is the only basis for ethics the survival of DNA?

“I stand in awe of the wonder of life and can but offer humble thanks for the gift of being a part of the cosmos.”

**But to whom
does he give
thanks?**



Richard Dawkins
(Atheist, evolutionary biologist)

12

"Indeed, it appears as though the problem of establishing a natural, humanistic basis for ethical behavior is not much of a problem at all. **It is in our natures to desire love, to seek beauty, and to thrill at the act of creation.**

The complex maze we see when we examine traditional moral codes is largely the result of vain attempts to accommodate **human needs and nature** to the whimsical totems and taboos of the demons and deities who emerged with us from our cave-dwellings at the end of the Paleolithic Era - and have haunted our houses ever since."

<https://www.atheists.org/about/american-atheists-center/> 12

The atheist is saying:

1. **The root of human ethical impulses is nature, which seeks to preserve life (both quantity and quality).**
2. **The idea of God is confined to formal religious totems and taboos and not related to our nature.**

But where does the moral impulse in man's nature (to preserve life) come from?

13

Paul's use of common ground

Acts 17

"22 . . . 'Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. 23 For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' **What therefore you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you** 24 The God who made the world and all things in it. . . 25 . . . **He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;** . . . 27 that they should **seek God**, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us;** 28 **for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'**" 14

Making peace in a hostile world

Common ground

Humans can suppress the worship of God but they cannot easily ignore the witness of God through conscience and creation.



15

Paul explains the drama of Gen.1-3

Romans 1

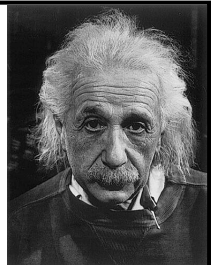
"19 because that which is known about God **is evident within them;** for **God made it evident to them.** 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

Science cannot prove or disprove the Christian message but it does offer "clues" and raises questions that can lead to it.

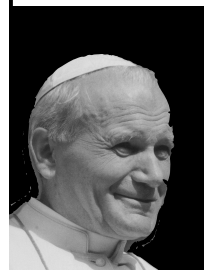
16

"Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind."

Albert Einstein



Pope John Paul II



"Science can purify religion from error and superstition; religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes."

17

Romans 2:18-19

“¹⁴ For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, . . . ¹⁵ . . . they show the work of **the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.**”

*The shadow of God's image is in every human's soul as witnessed by **a universal sense of an ethical conscience.***

18

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust.

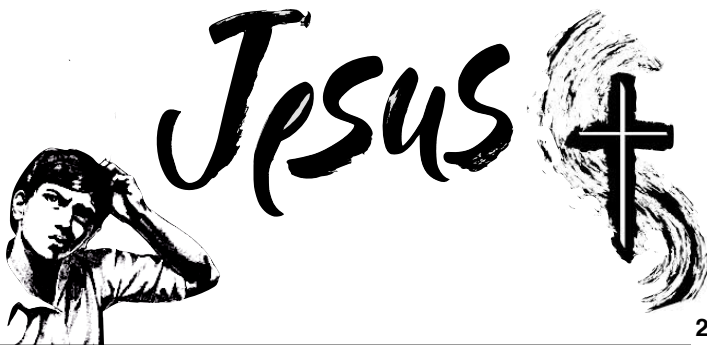
But how had I got this idea of just and unjust?”



C.S. Lewis

19

But how can we find peace and make peace in a world that has suppressed the image of God?



20

Jesus' humble posture as our example.

Philippians 2

“⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.** ⁹ Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus “*every knee should bow*,” of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

21

Paul's humbling experience.

2 Corinthians 12

“⁷ And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me - to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “**My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.**” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ **Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.**”

22

God's choice of the humble.

1 Corinthians 1

“²⁶ For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷ but **God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise**, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised, **God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are,** ²⁹ **that no man should boast before God.** ³⁰ But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, ³¹ that, just as it is written, “*Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.*””

23

The responsibility of the strong to help the weak.

1 Corinthians 12

"¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. . . . And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³ and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, **on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness,** ²⁴ whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, ²⁵ that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And **if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**" ²⁴

The spiritual wisdom of humility.

1 Peter 2

"¹³ **Submit yourselves** for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. ¹⁵ For such is the will of God that by doing right you may **silence the ignorance of foolish men.** ¹⁶ Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as **bondslaves of God.** ¹⁷ Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king."

- **It is better to show our hope than to enforce our hope on others.**

Submitting is a way of demonstrating our faith and hope in Christ (not human institutions).

- **This is alien to the world's thinking, which too often the church embraces.**

25

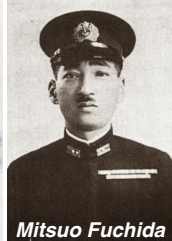
Humility and the Image of God



Jacob DeShazer



Peggy Covell



Mitsuo Fuchida



DeShazer was converted while a POW in Japan. He came to forgive his captors and traveled with Fuchida who came to faith after reading DeShazer's testimony and that of Japanese POW's who were led to Christ by an American nurse (Peggy Covell) whose family had been beheaded by Japanese soldiers during the war. ²⁶

The greater gift

"A monk in his travels once found a precious stone and kept it. One day he met a traveler, and when the monk opened his bag to share his provisions with him, the traveler saw the jewel and asked the monk to give it to him. The monk did so readily. The traveler departed overjoyed with the unexpected gift of the precious stone that was enough to give him wealth and security for the rest of his life.

However, a few days later he came back in search of the monk, found him, gave him back the stone, and entreated him, 'Now give me something much more precious than this stone, valuable as it is.

Give me that which enabled you to give it to me."



Anthony De Mello
Indian Jesuit priest

27

What can we assume of all people?

- **They bear the image of God** with the inner antenna to hear and respond at some level.
- **They share common aspirations and anxieties** as they struggle in life.
- **They share some common core views** of life and language (music, art, athletics, joy, etc.).

How should that affect the way we relate with others?

- **Toning down** the rhetoric to work together
- **Empathetic sharing** joys and sorrows.
- **Humility** in showing and telling the Gospel.

28

**"Darkness cannot drive out darkness:
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate:
only love can do that."**

Martin Luther King Jr.
InspirationBoost.com

29

**Silence the
ignorance of
foolish men** 
GOD'S WAY

30

1 Corinthians 1

“18 For the **word of the cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.*””

31