

## Lesson 1

### The Inversion of Old Standards

Use this outline to share the Biblical Truth with students. The underlined words correspond to the blanks on the Master Teacher Student Worksheet.

#### Outline

**Intro:** Jesus clearly defined the characteristics of a consecrated life.

1. The humility of Consecration (Matthew 5:1–5).

Use any of these activities you choose as you teach the outline to your students. The activities correspond to the points in the outline. If you choose to use the *Illustration for the Intro*, you'll need a copy of the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* (directed by Gore Verbinski. Burbank, CA: Buena Vista, 2006). If you choose to use the *Illustration for the first point*, you will need flattering pictures of Lindsey Lohan, Paris Hilton, and Mel Gibson, along with their infamous "mug shots." If you choose to use the *Illustration for the second point*, you will need a realistic model or illustration of the human heart. If you choose to use the *Illustration for third point*, you will need a copy of the movie *High School Musical* (Directed by Kenny Ortega. Burbank, CA: Disney Channel, 2006).

#### Activities

**Description:** In the Old Testament, God called the children of Israel to set their lives apart from the people around them. In the New Testament, Jesus extended the same call to both Jews and Gentiles in the Sermon on the Mount.

**Illustration:** Show the clip from *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* in which the main characters have to flip the boat upside down in order to return to the real world. Fortunately, in Christ, we do not have to "figure out" what it means to live a consecrated life; He clearly defines it for us.

**Description:** Jesus said that in order to be consecrated, people must understand their own sinfulness, mourn over it, and live humbly.

**Illustration:** One at a time, display flattering pictures of Lindsey Lohan, Paris Hilton, and Mel Gibson, and ask for students' responses. Then, hold up copies of their famous "mug shots," and ask for students' responses. Explain that we may want a glamorous life, but if it's not lived in humility, it can get ugly.

**Interaction:** Divide students into groups of two or three. Instruct each group to define humility and then write their definition on the Master Teacher Student Worksheet. Then, instruct them to write examples of people they consider humble and things that make those people humble.

**Application:** Humility and consecration go hand in hand because of the necessity of repentance. People cannot be both consecrated and unrepentant.

2. The heart of Consecration (Matthew 5:6–9).

**Description:** The heart of consecration is righteousness, mercy, purity, and desire for peace.

**Illustration:** Display a realistic model or picture of a human heart. Describe how it distributes blood throughout our bodies. Discuss how God wants us to have consecrated lives that distribute righteousness, mercy, purity, and peace throughout our world.

**Interaction:** Direct students to the Master Teacher Student Worksheet, and instruct them to draw a symbol for each of the following: righteousness, mercy, purity, and peace.

**Application:** Consecration flows from having God's radical perspective on all aspects of life.

3. The outcome of Consecration (Matthew 5:10).

**Description:** Living a consecrated life is countercultural and will illicit resistance and sometimes persecution from others.

**Illustration:** Show the clip from *High School Musical* in which the students sing the song "Stick to the Stuff You Know." Jesus calls us to be different from the status quo regardless of the outcome.

**Interaction:** Instruct students to get in groups of two or three and share what pressures they have to conform in their lives. Ask them to discuss ways they can alleviate that pressure.

**Application:** Explain that people don't get prizes for being just like everyone else. Jesus says if you're different like He wants you to be different, you'll be blessed. Ask students which sounds better to them.

**Conclusion:** The blessing of living a consecrated life.

**Description:** The life Jesus calls all Christians to is not one of glamour and fame. It is one of sacrifice and, ultimately, blessing.

**Illustration:** Explain that thousands of people run marathons in New York, Boston, and other cities. The course is difficult and only a few get the glory of being top finishers. But, thousands run because everyone who completes the course experiences the joy of finishing. In the Christian life, there is great joy in the journey as well eternal blessing at the conclusion.