

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

Nine hundred seventy-two million dollars - What if I told you that money was sitting in a big pot and you had a chance to take some?

What if I told you that you and thousands of others leave their share behind every day? Why would anyone leave their share of \$972 million behind? Nearly fifty percent said they didn't have time. Thirty-seven percent said they couldn't decide if they wanted anything. Another fourteen percent said they lost their way.

According to the Consumer Reports in 2005, one in five gift-card recipients never uses their cards. These cards add up to more than \$972 million in unclaimed purchases.

Think about the indescribable gift from God. How many would say they don't have time for His love and new life? We've probably known someone who couldn't find anything in God's Word that they needed. And just like those seeds that were choked out by the thorns and rocks, how many people do you know who became distracted from fully thriving in God's Word?

I wish I could ask people to send me their unwanted gift cards. I wish I had a reminder of the value I was missing once I let a card's expiration date pass without notice. I wish we, myself included, could look up and see the value that we let slip through our hands.

For God so loved the world he gave his one and only Son. So let us approach the throne of grace with confidence. We will receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need. John 3:16 & Hebrews 4:16

A Man of Faith

May 30

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Next Week:

JUNE 6, 2021

MATT. 16:26

NOW OR LATER

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

It is rewarding to invest time each day in God's Word.

Mo Luke 12:29-31

Set your schedule to do first things first today. Start your work week with time with your Father. Yield control of this week to Him. Agree to live out what is right and kingdom first.

Tu Philippians 4:8

Monitor your thoughts this week. Do you spend time reacting to things that are not right? Do your thoughts, actions, and words reflect a heart that seeks what is right?

We Luke 14:27-35

Determining the next right step is often helped by looking further down the road. Paying attention to details is prudent. What do you need to investigate as a way of living faithfully?

Th Exodus 8:9-10

Pharaoh heard God's invitation for a reprieve from the frogs. Why was his answer was to wait? Do you hesitate to do what is right? Do you eagerly anticipate joining God in bringing help and restoration?

Fr Proverbs 6:6-11

A sluggard hesitates by saying, "Why do today what can be put off till tomorrow." We can be sluggards in our right ways of living. Holding off doing good to bless others leads to your own demise.

Sa 2 Timothy 2:15

Are you preparing for the upcoming challenges? Are you proactive in learning? Do you seek God's Word in advance of difficult times? To be ready to seize the day, we must prepare today.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Philippians 4:8 and notice either the word right or just (dikaioi). What does that word mean in each of these examples;
 - ◇ Matthew 1:19 - Joseph was a dikaioi man
 - ◇ Acts 4:19 - what is action is dikaioi in God's eyes
 - ◇ 1 Peter 3:12 - God sees and hears those who are dikaioi
- Are there moments or relationships in your life right now where your perspective is clouded, and you are missing what God is doing or leading you to do?
- Are there moments or relationships in your life right now that you only see what is wrong? Is a constant negative perspective dividing you from seeing the positives or opportunities?
- Being ready to live a righteous life is a pre-decision. If you struggle with living righteously, what decisions or rejections can you make today to prepare you for tomorrow's opportunities? See Joshua's pre-decision in Joshua 24:14-15.
- Romans 12:2 teaches us to renew our minds. What we think about and how we believe significantly affect our lives. Procrastination is a great killer of initiative and opportunity. Setting out your gym clothes the night before increases the likelihood of going to the gym in the morning. What can you do to increase your participation with:
 - ◇ God's Word
 - ◇ God's People
 - ◇ God's Spirit