

# LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

**O**nce a month, a group of professionals armed with blow dryers, scissors, nail polish — and love — venture forth to serve those less fortunate than themselves.

*Hairdressers in the Marketplace (HIM), a ministry of a church in Chicago, offers monthly Day of Beauty sessions in which needy women receive free haircuts and manicures. HIM volunteers also go to nursing homes for the poor, homeless shelters, and facilities for the mentally disabled to provide free services.*

*Hairstylist Teresa Russo-Cox started HIM in 1998 after unsuccessfully trying numerous ministry positions at her church. None felt like the right fit for her. She asked God, “Why did you give me a talent that’s so much about vanity? How can I serve you?”*

*She says God answered those prayers with a vision for a group that not only communicates God’s love and care to women in need, but also reaches out to stylists. “That’s what sets us apart from other ministries that offer haircuts to the poor,” says Teresa. “We focus on evangelism to the beauty industry, which is filled with so much darkness. Its underlying message is all about external things — glamour and glitz. I want to bring the light of God’s Word into our industry.”*

This month we will talk about talent and service. What has God gifted you to do? Where do you see a need? Who can you recruit to help in this great opportunity? By looking up to what God has provided, we will first see opportunity instead of ourselves. He gets the glory!

Portions from Keri Wyatt Kent, “Pampered with a Purpose,” Today’s Christian Woman

# SERMON NOTES

## God Gives to All

March 06

◇ God \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

◇ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ your talent

Believe

Believe

Maturing Talent

Mature Talent

◇ Do you have the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ back to God?

MAR. 13, 2022

MATT. 25:19-21

**Next Week:**

**MAGNIFY & MULTIPLY**

MATT HUDDLESTON

## PERSONAL STUDY

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

### **Mo** 1 Peter 4:10-11

Reflect back to a time you felt you seized an opportunity to use your God-given gift. What did that look like? How did you feel?

### **Tu** Romans 12:1

Do you feel like a living sacrifice? Has that been encouraging or discouraging to you? Share with God what you need to work on; being a living sacrifice or seeing your sacrifice as worship in honor to Him?

### **We** 2 Timothy 1:6

Who is one person who encouraged you to grow in your talent? Take time to thank God for their influence in your life, and if possible, thank them for their encouragement.

### **Th** Proverbs 11:24

*Prov. 11:24 (MSG): "The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller."* In what ways are you generous with your talent? Where do you see room for growth?

### **Fr** Luke 2:52

This verse helps us see the development even in Jesus. Where do you need to develop your talent more? Ask God for more opportunities to practice serving and giving with your talent.

### **Sa** Luke 6:38

Matt spoke several times about giving and God giving back even more in February. Do you have the gumption to use your talent to greatly give back to God?

## STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Romans 12:1–8. In what ways could using your gifts be an act of worship? In what ways could your gifts help the body of Christ?
- Read 1 Peter 4:8–11. These verses point out that love for each other and for God is at the core of using our gifts. What other motivations do we sometimes have for using our gifts? What difference does it make when we have a heart of love when using our gifts?
- Make a list of several people from the Bible who used their gifts. Who is someone in your church or small group who has used their gifts to glorify God and love the church? In what ways is that person living sacrificially?
- What spiritual gift(s) have you noticed in your life? In what ways has God used your gifts to minister to others and grow you as his follower?
- Read Ephesians 4:1–3. What does this passage say about how we should act toward other believers? Why do you think it's important for us to maintain unity? In what ways could empathy—or "bearing with one another in love"—help keep Christians unified?
- Read Matthew 9:35–36. What example does Jesus set for us in terms of empathy? What difference does it make to you to know that Jesus was full of compassion toward people?
- What's an example of someone empathizing with you? What impact did that person's actions have on you?
- What barriers can make empathizing with someone difficult for you? What could it look like to work through those barriers to empathize with someone?