

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

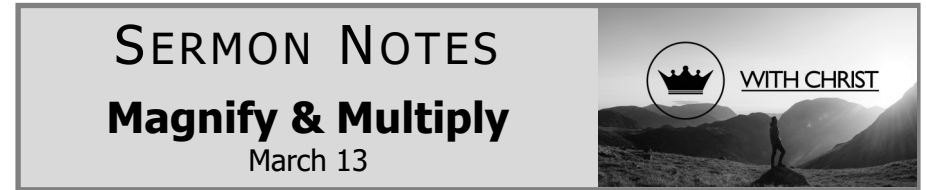
Getting a novel published is extremely difficult, especially if you are an unknown author. Chuck Ross, a freelance writer, decided to test the system. He retyped the first twenty-one pages of a novel that had won the National Book Award six years before and sent them to four publishers, using the fictitious name Erik Demos.

All four publishers rejected the manuscript. Two years later, under the fictitious pen name Erik Demos, Ross retyped the entire novel and submitted it to several more publishers, including the original publisher, Random House. All rejected it with unhelpful comments, including Random House, which used a form letter. All told, fourteen publishers and thirteen literary agents failed to recognize the talent in a book that had already been published and had won an important award!

Is rejection a sign of lack of talent? According to scripture, it is not. Joshua, on his first big assignment, faced rejection. As a vital member of a spy team, Joshua could not convince his team, nor the Israelites, of the opportunities to follow God in battle. Joshua's faith and talent for leadership remained a generation later when God appointed Joshua as the leader of the Israelites through Moses.

Joshua's first leadership act reminded people to be strong and courageous in God. Obey God's commands, and He will lead us wherever we go (Josh. 1:7-9). Joshua's last statement continued to lead his family and the Israelites towards God. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Josh. 24:15).

Are you looking up to God or the scoreboard of your life?



SERMON NOTES

Magnify & Multiply

March 13

FACILITIES: Clauset & Coffield

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Mattacchione (Journey Land)

Bradshaw (Scouts for Christ)

Fandrich (Kids for Christ)

YOUTH MINISTRY: Ashley

ADULT MINISTRIES: Howerton

OUTREACH & MISSIONS: Larson & Yale

FAMILY GROWTH: Parrish & Trinh

MEMBER SERVICES: Long & Rajacich

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS: Essic

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY: Garcia

BENEVOLENCE: Warner

FINANCE & ADMIN: Wilburn

WORSHIP: Knoske

MAR. 20, 2022

MATT. 25:19-21

Next Week:

WHO CARES WHAT YOU DO

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Ephesians 2:10

In different versions, this verse states that WE are "God made," "His handiwork," "His workmanship," and "His masterpiece." Does this fit with your thoughts about your talent and ability in His kingdom?

Tu Ephesians 2:10

No work is good work for the worker if it does not come from faith in God, through our trust in Jesus Christ. How can your tasks at home and the office be examples of faith?

We Ephesians 2:10

In different versions, this verse states that the work was "prepared beforehand," "prepared in advance," "planned long ago," and "already prepared." Which phrase is most motivating?

Th John 6:28-29

The crowd asked Jesus, "What works can we do?" How did Jesus respond? It seems Jesus calls the group to take action in their trust in Him. How does your trust move you to use your talent?

Fr Ephesians 2:10

In the Message version, this verse ends with, "...work we had better be doing." Take time to pray for greater awareness of the value of your time, talents, and treasures. What had we better be doing now?

Sa James 2:14-26

There is no such thing as faith apart from the works; "faith without works is dead" Trusting in God propels us into action. If you have faith, where is your talent at work?

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-12, and Ephesians 4:11. List the different types of gifts. Several gift-types are repeated. Which gift fits you the best?
- Read Romans 12:3 & 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. While boasting about your God-given giftedness is out of line, shouldn't we be able to determine what our God-given talent is?
- Romans 12:5 reminds us of the unity and oneness we have in Christ's body. We want to encourage each member to know their talent and grow in their ability to serve.
 - ◇ Go back to the list of gift-types in the first question. Place at least one name from our church family beside each gift.
 - ◇ How can you encourage each person to continue to grow in utilizing their gift?
- Read Matthew 25:13-25. In the parable of the talents, we are told that the master 'entrusted' each of the three servants with a certain amount of money. The third servant was unproductive when compared to the other two.
 - ◇ What reason does he give for his poor performance? Do you think it was a reasonable excuse or an empty fear?
 - ◇ Who else in scripture started as the third servant? When or how did they change to be more productive and responsible?
 - ◇ What are some responsibilities with which God has entrusted you? What is your response to each of these responsibilities?