

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

A man selling Christmas trees noticed one couple that looked like they were going through hard times. After bypassing several expensive trees, they found a tree that was OK on one side but scraggly on the other. Then they picked up another similar tree—full on one side, pretty bare on the other. She whispered something, and he asked if \$3 would be OK. The salesman figured neither tree would sell, so he agreed.

A few days later, the salesman was walking down the street and saw the couple going into a small apartment with a beautiful tree in the window. It was thick and well-rounded. He knocked on their door, and soon they were talking about the Christmas tree in the window. The couple told him they had pushed the two trees together where the branches were thin. Then they tied the trunks together. The branches overlapped and formed a tree so thick you couldn't see the wire.

This is how God works within the church. My weaknesses paired with your strengths create a strong balance for your weaknesses paired with my strengths. Paul shows us to look to Christ so we are bettered paired together (Philippians 2:2-5 NIV). "Make my joy complete by agreeing with each other. Have the same love. Be one in spirit and purpose ... Think of others as better than yourselves. None of you should look out just for your own good. You should also look out for the good of others. You should think in the same way Christ Jesus does.

A healthy marriage, a healthy church, and a beautiful Christmas tree, when you look closer, all show signs of support and dependence. Look up and let Christ unite us and connect us in Him.

SERMON NOTES

Never Walk Alone

March 20

REVIEW

God _____ to _____

_____ and _____ your talent

Do you have the _____ to _____ back to God?

Four Generations of Faith _____

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
| 3. | 4. |

Since you have been given _____ from _____,
be a _____ and _____, and _____.

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MAR. 27, 2022

JAMES 1:17 & 22

Next Week:

GOD REWARDS
MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Matthew 25:19-21

Jesus says the master is pleased with a faithful and productive servant; His picture of success: entrusted with talents, gathering even more. May we desire to live like this type of servant for our Master.

Tu Appreciative - 2 Timothy 2:2-7

Think of the coach, trainer, or mentor as you read the examples of soldiers, athletes, and farmers. Whose spiritual leadership, training, and encouragement are you appreciative of? Express it today.

We Leading - 2 Timothy 2:2-7

Paul instructs Timothy to help others to lead others, who will then lead others. Yesterday, we appreciated our spiritual leaders. Today, we look for those we can lead. Who has similar, yet untapped, talents to you?

Th Opportunity - 2 Timothy 2:2-7

C.S Lewis said, "The Son of God became a man to enable man to become sons of God." What opportunities do you have to walk with a friend going in the wrong direction to help guide in the right direction?

Fr New - 2 Timothy 2:2-7, Matthew 25:25

The fear of NEW can be paralyzing. Today, connect with both a spiritual leader and directly with God to share any fears you might have. Ask for training and assistance in faithfully moving forward.

Sa Energy - 2 Timothy 2:2-7

Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny. God's history then and God's people now can help you navigate around energy-depleting pitfalls. Use that energy saved to bless many others.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Utilizing talent requires two key components: a desire to learn and a desire to do. It's been said that everyone is a salesperson because they must sell what they are doing in life. Matt says, "everyone can be a leader and learner." In what ways are you a leader? How will being a lifelong learner enhance your leadership?
- Leading and learning require relationships. Read 2 Timothy 2:2. In what area of your life do you see this trend of learning and leading repeating to others?
 - ◇ Within our congregation, who do you appreciate for walking with you, leading, and helping you?
 - ◇ Who do you see who needs someone to walk with them, to learn from?
- Matthew 25:14-30 is a fascinating story. We miss most of the interaction between the master and his workers. We must infer the previous conversations and expectations of the master to the workers based on the lazy worker's response, "I knew you were a hard man, harvesting where you had not planted... I was afraid." When speaking about your spiritual talent(s), what level of fear governs your action or lack of action?
- Our culture often gripes, "Good work is rewarded with more work." Is this what Jesus is teaching when He says, "Whoever has will be given more..."? (Matt 25:29)
- In the sermon, Matt shared the idea that we should never walk alone. Spiritually, do you feel you are walking alone? Who could you partner with to learn from? Who could you partner with to lead and help?