

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

After a few questions, it was clear the couple in my office was struggling with communication and their marriage was in real trouble. She was home with the kids, and he was at the worksite. She went to the school events, and he went to the gym. Her schedule was demanding and lonely. He, too, felt the demands from clients and bosses. The last thing he wanted was a demanding spouse. So he avoided his house and spouse.

As we spoke, she asked for a little more connection throughout the day. When I took her request and broke it down to a simple action (send one text each day), the lightbulb came on. “All you want from me is one text,” he asked surprisingly? “Yes, just one update, to let me know you care about me,” she tearfully responded. “That’s easy. I thought you wanted me to stop everything and tell you about everything!” One text? I can do that,” he said excitedly!

One week later, I was eager to see how their marriage had improved after implementing this simple first step. “How did it go this past week?” I asked. Bursting into tears, she said, “Terrible! He never texted me, not even once!”

I heard many people talk about how South Fork is like a family. Yet some of us have acted just like this guy; no time to worship together, quickly leaving to avoid conversation and connections, skipping classes and fellowship times. Do your excuses outweigh our actions?

I want to be where Christ-followers are. I want to encourage others as they encourage me. I want to be a part of the South Fork Family. Will you join me in stepping up to loving God’s family better this week?

SERMON NOTES

A GOOD DOUBLE VISION

April 24

With _____ and _____, our South Fork family, _____ to _____ our three resources (_____, _____, and _____) in life with the _____, _____, and _____, so the _____ is empowered and equipped to share the _____ to the _____.

- ❖ _____ the _____ your _____ with _____ your _____ and with _____ your _____ and with _____ your _____.
- ❖ _____ your _____ as _____.

❖ ❖ _____ ~ _____ ❖ ❖

CORAM DEO

- ◆ His _____
- ◆ His _____
- ◆ His _____

Next Week:

MAY 1, 2022

PHIL. 2:4

LOVE OTHERS & SELF

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Matthew 22:36-40

This week let's think about these two great laws. Let's pledge to dive deeper into understanding and applying these laws to our lives. Start by memorizing the two laws.

Tu Matthew 22:36-40 & Exodus 34:5-8

Let's love God as He is, not as we want Him to be. These verses in Exodus are God's longest self-description. God is loving and gracious yet does not leave the guilty unpunished. Worship Him!

We Matthew 22:36-40, Psalm 51:10-12, Jeremiah 29:13

Read Jer. 29:13. This phrase "with all your heart" reminds us of the Jewish Shema—the Great Commandment to love God with every shred of our being—obedience, desire, and yearning. Pray David's prayer.

Th Matthew 22:36-40, John 3:5-8

Both soul and Spirit come from Greek words to describe breath. Is life measured by the breaths we take or the moments that take our breath away? Does God take your breath away? Does He quicken your heart?

Fr Matthew 22:36-40, Proverbs 23:7

As we think, so shall we be. What are you listening to? Constant negative news, peppy songs about sleeping around, or words of life and truth? Turn off the junk today. Fill your mind with God's Word.

Sa Matthew 22:36-40, Luke 10:25-37

Jesus tells of a man taking care of his neighbor, the one in need. As you review your week and prepare for next week's needs, also look around and help with your neighbor's needs. Don't seek only your own needs.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Imagine seeing two couples at different tables at a nice restaurant. One is a couple deeply in love and infatuated with each other. The other couple has fallen into a rut. Their date is routine. Describe how those two couples might look.
- Read Matthew 22:36-40.
 - ◇ Can you love God without giving all your heart, soul, and mind?
 - ◇ What are the similarities of heart, soul, and mind? How are they different?
 - ◇ How can you fully love God and grow in your love for Him?
 - ◇ Read 1 John 4:20-21 and discuss if you love God without loving your neighbor?
- Imagine two individuals walking into a devotional or Bible class. One is excited about the lesson and its application. The other has heard this before. The first is excited about their relationship with God. The other is growing dull and routine in their desire for God. Describe how each person might look.
 - ◇ Take some time to share personally:
 - ◇ Do you feel you love God with all your heart, soul, and mind? Why?
 - ◇ Do you think your desire for God has grown or waned in the past few months? What caused the change?
 - ◇ How would you evaluate yourself in loving your neighbor as yourself?