

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

Two friends went out to eat one day, and both ordered the daily special. When the waitress brought their meals, she placed the salads in front of each man. Then apologizing for serving the last of the daily special, she put two plates at the table's edge. As the men looked up, they could see one plate had a large portion, and the other was small.

Jim picked up the small plate and handed it to his friend Bob while bringing the large-portioned in front of him. "Well, you certainly have some nerve!" exclaimed Bob. "What's troubling you, old friend?" Jim responded. "Look what you've done. You've given me the little piece and kept the big one for yourself," Bob said. "How would you have done it?" asked Jim. Bob answered straight, "If I were serving, I would have given you the bigger plate." "Well," replied Jim, "I've known you far too long, and you are just that kind of guy. So I gave you what you wanted." At that, they both laughed and enjoyed their meal together.

It's been said that character is like chiseling a statue; one has to knock off huge chunks of selfishness, which requires self-discipline. Only then does character begin to emerge. No man can live happily who regards himself alone, who turns everything to his own advantage. You must live for others if you wish to live for yourself.

Jesus said we should go the second mile and treat others as we wish to be treated (Matthew 5:41 & 7:12). The two greatest commands—not suggestions—commands; Love God and love others. Look up to Jesus, who demonstrates what loving God and others really looks like.

Love Others & Self

May 1

CORAM DEO

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

5 BIBLICAL WAYS TO _____ AS _____

- ◆ SPEAK
- ◆ GO
- ◆ DO
- ◆ NO
- ◆ TOO

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EXO. 2:1-10

Next Week:

A MESSAGE FOR EVERYONE

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Matthew 22:36-40

Start each day this week with the prayer to "love God fully and to love others as yourself." He loves you, forgives you, and wants better for you. Will you share His vision with others this week?

Tu Matthew 22:36-40 & 5:41

Roman law allowed soldiers to compel people to carry their packs for one mile. Why would the Messiah, Jesus Christ, tell His followers to go the 2nd mile? Who could you go a second mile with today?

We Matthew 22:36-40 & 7:41

Not only does Christ call us to go the 2nd mile, but He also raises the bar so we will treat people better -as we want to be treated. Use this verse in each interaction you have today. Watch how you are blessed!

Th Matthew 22:36-40 & 1 Corinthians 13:1

God is love. Jesus demonstrates His love by going all the way to the cross, not holding a grudge, nor expecting payback. Ask God to erase any records of wrong or memories of who owes you for your kindness.

Fr Matthew 22:36-40 & Ephesians 4:15

Sometimes we speak harshly and with a condemning spirit. If you have hurt or isolated someone with your words, ask God to help you find a loving and truthful way to speak, repair, and reconnect with your friend.

Sa Matthew 22:36-40 & 2 Peter 3:9

Today we celebrate the patient nature of God. He desires all to come to know Him. Thank Him for the patience He has given you, and ask for patience in dealing with others in your life. Seek to join God's timeline.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Matthew 22:36-40.
 - ◇ Share about an individual you feel exemplifies this complete devotion to God. What did their life look like?
 - ◇ In Deuteronomy 6:5, the Israelites heard the original command to "Love God with all their heart, soul, and strength." Matthew lists heart, soul, and mind. In Mark 12:28-34, Mark has all four qualities listed. Of the four qualities, which seems easiest for you to offer fully to God, and which is hardest?
- Matt shared several ways to measure and assist us in loving others. Discuss how each verse helps you align better with God's vision.
 - ◇ Read Matthew 5:41. What does it mean to go the second mile in today's world? Is this something you practice regularly?
 - ◇ Read Matthew 7: 12. Which characterizes you; avoiding people, abusing people, or treating them as you want to be treated?
 - ◇ Read 1 Cor. 13:1. Do you maintain a mental record of those who owe you because you have already gone the second mile for them?
 - ◇ Read Ephesians 4:15-16. When have you seen someone speak the truth unlovingly? How did that impact the unity and connectedness of His body?
 - ◇ Read 2 Peter 3:9. How does God's delay make you feel? Are you inspired to be more gracious with the extra time, or do you wish He would respond quicker?