

LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

Whatever is lovely... think on these things.

In my parent's home, still to this day, there is a small glass cube etched with a horse from a carousel. That little cube was a gift I gave my mother so many years ago when I was in elementary school.

I don't know what all my parents would grab if their house were on fire, but I know that little cube would not be at the top of the list. Yet, the loss of that little glass cube would be great sadness for my mom because she would have lost the reminder of her young son's love.

God sees us through Jesus' sacrifice, seeing us through the transforming nature of the cross. How beautiful to know that God continues to see us as his children, washed and cleansed. How our hearts soar when we realize he sees us as lovely.

Notice God's nature in his demonstration of perfect love;

Slow to suspect—quick to trust

Slow to condemn—quick to justify

Slow to offend—quick to defend

Slow to expose—quick to shield

Slow to reprimand—quick to forbear

Slow to demand—quick to give

Slow to provoke—quick to conciliate

Slow to hinder—quick to help

Slow to resent—quick to forgive

Someone once said, "I not only want to be loved, I want to be told that I'm loved." Look up and see all the ways God says he loves you.

SERMON NOTES

Isn't She Lovely

June 13

How ___ often _____ lovely

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◇

The _____ definition of _____:

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◇

Lovely is _____ in the _____

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◇

Lovely _____

◇

JUNE 20, 2021

PRO. 4:11-12

Next Week:

HIS TIME TO SHINE

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Colossians 3:2

As you start your work week, where are your thoughts? Sure we need to proceed through the tasks, but is your goal firmly planted in your mind? How would this week stand out if you looked at things above?

Tu Psalm 84:1

What will it be like to be in the presence of God? Is lovely the answer you come up with? When you think of heaven, do you see more of the streets, walls, and mansions? Or do you see the Lamb and the Father?

We Proverbs 3:5-6

Repeat these verses several times today. Take time right now to write them on a notecard. Let these verses be a reminder and your prayer as you go through the day.

Th Isaiah 55:8-9

Yesterday, as you read Pro. 3:5-6, did you struggle to trust Him with all your heart fully? If so, let today's verses be your confession to God. Share your joy that he leads us with his Word and Spirit.

Fr Psalm 77:12

Make a list today of all his mighty works. Let your mind go back through the stories in the Bible. Remember the different events in your life. How many specific works can you ascribe to the Lord?

Sa Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made. Can you see the Lord over the day, or do you see the day over the Lord? Does the gift draw you closer to the Giver, or do you take the gift and disconnect from the Giver?

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Philippians 4:8. How do noble and lovely fit together?
- In our English versions, the word lovely is often used to describe beauty. In Esther, the queen was lovely to look at (Est. 1:11). Throughout Song of Songs, the word lovely is used to describe the lover's beauty. In Psalm 84:1 and Philippians 4:8, the word lovely is pointing to God and godly action. Why would Paul use this word to help direct our thinking?
- In John 21, Jesus uses the strongest word for love (agape) when he asks Peter the first two times, "Do you love me?" Both times Peter responds, "I love (phileo—as a friend) you." We should note that John describes God's love for Jesus with this same phileo/love word in John 5:20. The third time, Jesus uses Peter's word when he asks, "Do you love (phileo—as a friend) me?" Jesus starts where we are and then leads us toward greater love. How would you describe your love toward God right now?
- If we are not thinking about things that are lovely, what are we thinking of? What will be the long-term result of such thinking?
- One way to change your thinking pattern is to identify the negative, assign a positive response or consequence, and begin to swap the two. Like putting a dollar in "the swear jar." Another way is to preempt the negative thoughts by declaring your right thoughts and actions. Studies show you are more likely to get up and attend a Sunday morning worship service if you choose your outfit on Saturday night. What method will work best for you?
- Share one negative thought you have and how you are going to combat that thought pattern this week.