



# LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

**M**ore than forty years ago, a Philadelphia congregation watched as three nine-year-old boys gave their lives to Christ and were baptized. Not long after, the church sold its building and disbanded.

One of those boys was Dr. Tony Campolo, a Christian author, speaker, and professor. Dr. Campolo remembers: “Years later, when I was doing research, I decided to look up the church records for the year of my baptism. There was my name and Dick White’s — he is now a missionary — and Bert Newman is a professor of theology.”

Then Campolo read the church report for the year he joined the church. It said, “It has not been a good year for our church. We have lost twenty-seven members. Three joined, and they were only children.”

Many years ago, an older Biology professor at my Alma Mater, Harding University, pulled Jimmy, a young basketball scholarship student, into his office and asked several simple questions about the young man’s Bible knowledge and faith. It was apparent Jimmy came to Harding to play basketball, not learn about the Bible.

The Bible talks that ensued brought Jimmy to the point of conviction. Changing his major to Bible, Jimmy gave his life to Christ and was baptized. Jimmy Allen came back to teach Bible and traveled the country conducting gospel meetings where he baptized more than ten thousand souls.

If you are not looking up to the Father, you probably will miscalculate the important things of life. When you are faithful, even with little, more will be given (Luke 19:26).

# SERMON NOTES

## Invite Them

November 21



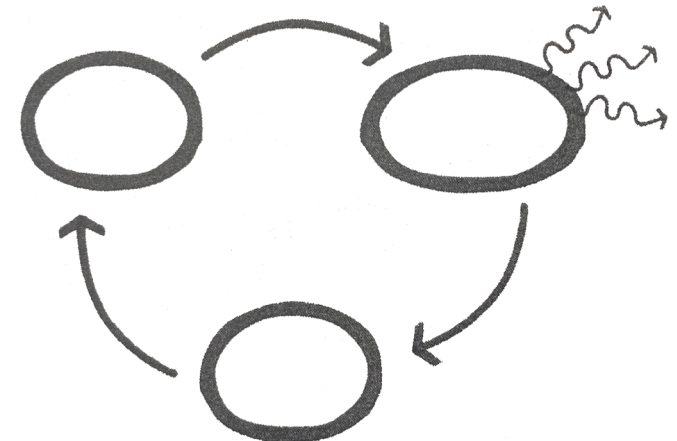
I will pray for \_\_\_\_\_

I will \_\_\_\_\_

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### Two - Four Questions

1. Ask to
2. Ask to



3. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
4. As you look at this, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Nov. 28, 2021

LUKE 7:7-8

**Next Week:**

**FINDING FAITH**  
MATT HUDDLESTON

## PERSONAL STUDY

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

### **Mo** Hebrews 13:1-2

Loving one another must extend to new relationships. We must greet and care for strangers. Otherwise, how will we grow beyond ourselves? Will you reach out today and make a new friend?

### **Tu** Genesis 18:1-5 & Hebrews 13:2

Interaction with angels is not typical, nor should it be expected. From these two passages, we see that God does interact with us, and other times He sends us to help those in need? Are you looking for either?

### **We** Luke 14:15-23

God, the master, has invited us to his great banquet. Take some time today to remember what God has freely given to you. What words can you offer as appreciation for His generous gift?

### **Th** Luke 14:15-23

Where are you in this story? Are you the one invited, but who is too busy? Are you the servant tasked with inviting more? Are you an undeserving invitee? As that character, what is your next step?

### **Fr** Luke 18:9-14

Those who know they need God's hospitality are more likely to give hospitality to others. Reflect on your prayers this week. Are your words more like the Pharisee's or the tax collector's?

### **Sa** 1 Kings 17:7-16 & Luke 19:12-27

Have you been tempted to give or serve out of your abundance? How does this widow's graciousness inspire you? How does the servant with one hidden talent warn us? Take inventory of what God has given you.

## STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Luke 14:15-23. Define the implied good news and sad news in this story.
- Identify the main actors in the parable. Describe what you think is going on in the minds of each character.
  - The Master
  - The servant
  - The field owner, the oxen owner, and the young married
  - The blind, the lame, and the crippled
  - Where are you in the story?
- In sharing our faith, we need to turn the conversation from physical issues to spiritual ones. What makes a good follow-up question? Jesus was the master of digging deeper into someone's life with a seemingly simple question.
  - ◇ Matthew 19:17—Jesus and the rich young ruler; Why do you call me good?
  - ◇ Luke 7:42—Jesus, Simon, and the prostitute; of these two who loved more?
  - ◇ John 4:7—Jesus and the woman at the well, will you give me a drink?
  - ◇ John 5:6—Jesus to the invalid at the pool; Do you want to get well?
- Abraham entertained angels in Genesis 1-15, and Hebrews 13:2 shows that angels walk among us. How can we practice hospitality to strangers in a culture where we fear “Stranger-Danger!”?