



LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

A Scandinavian proverb says, “There is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate outfits,” which got me thinking. I love to walk down the beach, but not in a suit and tie. Skiing on the snowy slopes is great, but how would you like to slide down in shorts and flip-flops? What we wear and how we prepare is important, right?

Have friends ever disconnected because you weren’t good enough to be in their presence anymore, let alone in the presence of the King? Do you know the fatigue of being told repeatedly to pick up your old mistakes, wear the shame of your sin, and carry your own past? 2 Cor. 5:17 & Gal. 3:27 says we are made new and clothed with Christ.

I have a friend who was declined the opportunity to take part in a worship service because he wasn’t dressed well enough. No, he wasn’t inappropriate. He was just not fancy enough for some person’s idea of what we should look like when we remember the gracious gift of Christ on the cross. Picture of Christ on the cross. He was barely wearing anything though he was covered with our sin and shame at the same time. Remember, we are clothed with Christ!

When I stand before God, I will not be standing as a man without sin or fault. I will not confidently walk because of my accomplishments. Anything I had made would have been like worn-out jeans and not those “fashionable” ones. The old hymn reminds me, “Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne.”

Look up and thank God for his indescribable great gift. You are dressed rightly by God’s grace, which is a free gift (Rom. 3:24).

SERMON NOTES

Speak of the Good

December 5



Romans __: __ If _____, _____?

◇ Affirmative:

Romans __: __ Do _____

◇ Don’t

◇ Don’t

Responding to those who would attack Christ’s Church

- Take
- Respond
- Connect
- Speak
- Share

Everyone can be _____ to their _____ - _____ must do _____.
_____ your _____ and _____ for those who _____ you.
This is how _____ of _____. Matthew 5:44-47

DEC. 12, 2021

Ps. 47:1-2 & 7

Next Week:

APPROACHABLE
MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Rom. 8:31

Start this week off with the confidence that God is on your side. Not because of your strength, intellect, or ability. No, he is on your side because he already gave you new life in Christ. Thank God!

Tu Rom. 8:35

Read this verse and confess to God the things you have worried about and let you feel separated from his love. Declare his power over all these things you've allowed to make you feel detached from his love.

We Rom. 14:16

The world has a history of calling good bad and bad good. Ask God to show you how this is happening around you. Pray for guidance to challenge the world's bait-n-switch.

Th Col. 4:5-6

Are you frustrated by the fraud, neglect, and deceit around you? Share your frustrations with the Lord. Allow his Spirit to prepare you to redeem the time and interactions you have with those who are blinded.

Fr Proverbs 9:7-9

If our words make a difference, then the cost might feel justified. Hear the meaning of this verse; First, we speak, then they react. You can't know beforehand. Speak with love. Speak your faith.

Sa Rom. 8:31

Praise God for fighting with you. Thank him for giving you victory in the difficult conversations of this week. Ask him to strengthen your spirit of faith to see his power in all situations.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Luke 14:15-23.
 - Share how you first heard or received God's invitation.
 - What was your initial response? Why?
 - Share if you ever had a harsh response when you have tried to share God's invitation.
- Read the three key passages from the lesson (Rom. 8:31, 14:16, and Matt. 5:44-47).
 - Do you ever feel as if there is so much against us?
 - Do you struggle to keep the good from being spoken of as evil?
 - Have you ever experienced success in praying for an enemy?
- In the sermon, Matt shared several positive outcomes from believers living out their faith (ex. care for children, hospitals and the Red Cross, abolishing slavery, higher education, etc.).
 - What other positive outcomes can you think of?
 - How does faith help us excel in the face of adversity?
 - Read Pro. 9:7-9. How do you know when you are dealing with a foolish or wise person? How have you determined when to walk away or speak up when faced with a difficult person?
- Does imagining Jesus at the table with you bring some change in your words, action, or thought? If so, what?