



LOOKING UP!

By Matt Huddleston

What gift will you give? The Greek word for forgive literally means “to give graciously; to give freely.” God invites our participation in his grace through forgiveness. God’s grace and love cannot be fully understood without us giving grace to others.

Jesus teaches God’s grace as he demonstrates prayer and forgiveness with these simple, profound words: “forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). Don’t forget why or the implications of our words. Jesus continues, “For if you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive them of their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6:14-15).

This teaching ought to wake us up. Jesus says that our forgiveness from God is proportionate to our willingness to forgive others. How are you doing with forgiveness? The plain truth is this: if you are refusing to forgive others, God is refusing to forgive you.

The Pharisees taught that a man should forgive and offense up to three times. Peter, knowing this tradition, presented an option making him twice as gracious, “seven times”? Jesus answered, in effect, “no, not seven times, but every time.”

Jesus taught, “to understand forgiveness, we must remember what we have received.” Forgiveness is always a gift. How can anyone who has been given much offer little in return? Read Hebrews 8:12 as both a gift from God and your promise to give to others, “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

SERMON NOTES

PERFECT

December 26



Isaiah ___:___ - _____

Matt - _____

MY DREAM OF PERFECTION:

- ◇ W
- ◇ W
- ◇ W
- ◇ W

GOD’S VIEW OF PERFECTION:

- ◆ Be Perfect: _____
- ◆ Perfect Power: _____
- ◆ Perfect Unity: _____ with and _____
- ◆ Made Perfect: _____

_____, did you know?

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2 COR. 9:6-8

Next Week:

4 T’s

MATT HUDDLESTON

PERSONAL STUDY

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

Mo Romans 11:36

Why did God create you? The challenging yet straightforward answer is God created us to bring glory to him. Set that as your prayer for the day and this New Year.

Tu Matthew 5:16 & 1 Peter 2:12

How can we glorify God in our day-to-day lives? Again, the best answer is to bring glory to God by our good works -at the job, in the home, at school, and in worship services.

We Matthew 5:16

What are good works? Go back to Mt. 5:16 again. Good works bring glory to God and are seen by, or benefit, others. Almost any task can be done for God's glory and to bless others.

Th Ephesians 2:10 & Titus 2:14

Can we who are sinful actually do good works? Yes! As Christ-followers, we get to do the work that God prepared in advance and that Christ perfects and completes.

Fr 1 Corinthians 10:31 & Titus 3:8

In what areas of life should we emphasize good works? We should emphasize good works in all aspects of our lives. If you can bring glory to God in all areas, you should bring glory to God in all areas.

Sa 1 Peter 4:10-11

How should we define productivity? Productivity is effectively stewarding my gifts, talents, time, energy, and enthusiasm for the good of others and the glory of God.

STUDY & DISCUSS

- Read Ecc. 12:14 & 2 Cor. 5:10. Our time on earth is valuable, or else why does He judge? In light of the true value of our lives, how are you preparing for this New Year?
 - ◇ Steven Covey - *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* - Begin with the end in mind. What is your goal?
 - ◇ David Allen - *Getting Things Done* - Getting organized means developing a system that handles the daily issues. How do you put information where it belongs?
 - ◇ Michael Hyatt - *The Best Year Ever* - What is your life score? How do you rate yourself in each of the ten main life domains: Spiritual, Intellectual, Emotional, Physical, Marital, Parental, Social, Vocational, Avocational, Financial?
 - ◇ Solomon - (Proverbs 1:7 & 9:10) - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge.
 - ◇ Jesus Christ - (Matthew 6:33) - Seek first His Kingdom, and all these other things will be given to you & (Luke 10:27) - Love the Lord with ALL your heart, soul, strength, and mind.
- Tim Challies finishes his book, *Do More Better*, by reminding us of Hebrews 10:24. "We are to spur one another on to love and good deeds that God has called us to. As humans created in God's image, and as Christians saved by God's grace, we have a remarkable privilege. We have the joy and the responsibility of stewarding our gifts, talents, time, energy, and enthusiasm for the good of others and the glory of God. This is your privilege, and this is your purpose. So go and do. Do more better."
 - ◇ What is one thing you will do to spur us to do more better?