

## Simply Put, When You Look Up, Things Will Look Up

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place—What is man that you are mindful of him, and mortal man that you care for him? O Lord how awesome is your name through all the earth! (Psalm 8:4-5, 9).*

**We've all heard the phrase "Things are looking up!"**

But what does it mean?

It means the situation is improving. Your problems are decreasing, and your opportunities are increasing.

This Christmas the scriptures are reminding you and me: **Things will start to look up for us when you start and I start looking up.**

In other words, life and the circumstances of our life will looking up when we stop looking that the ground, or at the problem or at the other person and start looking at *God*.

Over and over in the Bible, we see phrases that remind us to look up: "Lift up your eyes and see" "Look, fear not and see the salvation of the Lord". To the Shepherd this night the angels said again, "Fear not, for Behold (look) I proclaim good news of joy that will be for all the people," And the heavens themselves broke out into heavenly song, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

It's another way to say, **"Look up. Get your eyes off yourself and onto God."**

God said it to Abraham who was without an heir: "Look up at the sky and count the stars...so shall your offspring be". To Moses who was dealing with an obstinate and unruly people: As he looked up and climbed the high mountain and received from the hand of God the 10 commandments. Jesus said it to his followers, when discourage at his delay in coming: "When these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is near at hand.

There's an old rhyme that says, **"Two men looked out from prison bars. One saw mud, the other saw stars."** In other words, one looked down in despair, but the other one looked up in hope

*You see we really do have a choice: we can look down and despair at all that is wrong with the world or our nation or in our relationships. We can lament at the length of the pandemic. We can bemoan the fact that spiritually we seem to be making little progress.*

I reminded again of scripture this time it is Easter Sunday on the road to Emmaus: He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.

And he spoke to them of all that had been written about him in the scriptures... And they invited him to stay... And as he broke bread and said the blessing their eyes were opened and they said, “Did not our hearts burn within us as he spoke with us and they recognized him in the breaking of the bread!

**And their eyes were opened and they could see the gift before them!**

And we could go on... The Wise Men saw his star at is rising and they sought after the new born King!

**We have the same choice, and I hope that you choose to see the stars.** God created every one of them. And those stars are the exact same ones that were shining on the night of Jesus’ birth 2,000 years ago—and that King David saw 1,000 years before that, when he wrote these words:

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars that you set in place—What is man that you are mindful of him, and mortal man that you care for him? O Lord how awesome is your name through all the earth! (Psalm 8:4-5, 9).*

This time last year I was not with you and I found myself learning the lesson of looking up. I learned in my time away that life is certainly not a problem and the life I had been given is not a life of drudgery but it is pretty darn good!

When we look up and see how big God is, it shrinks the size of our problems. Our problems never seem as big or as overwhelming when compared to the greatness of God.

A child is born to us a savior has been given to us: He is Christ the Lord!

Merry Christmas!



Inspired by RICK WARREN — DECEMBER 19, 2018