

BEYOND SUNDAY

A SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

SERMON DATE • MARCH 13, 2022

Missed the sermon? Watch [here](#).

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This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

MESSAGE THEME & PRAYER FOCUS

Facing Storms Pt 5: Distractions Of The World

"Father God, what a joy and an honor to sit in your presence. You are so good, just, mighty, and worthy of my time. I lift up believers around the world asking for your way to be made clear and simple to us. I pray your voice would be easy to hear, your protection easy to find, and your ways easy to walk. Give us ears to hear and hearts to receive what you have for us daily. Amen."

KEY CONCEPTS / TRUTHS

The two biggest things to learn in order to experience growth in God's Kingdom are staying Kingdom-minded and continually presenting ourselves as a sacrifice to God. These are decisions we have to make every single day, but how do we do that?

- By allowing our hearts and minds to be renewed through hearing God's written word, as well as His spoken word given to us by His Holy Spirit. These will transform us and keep His Kingdom at the forefront of our thoughts and ways.
- By sacrificing our selfish desires, wants, and needs in favor of what God wants for us. Allowing ourselves to be vulnerable with Him, and being led by the Spirit in thought and action is presenting ourselves before God as an act of worship.

It's important to recognize when we are off-base with God, not only in how we act but also in the way we think. Walking through life with God requires repentance.

- Repentance is an inward shift and change of mind resulting in an outward change of behavior and direction.
- No matter how hard we try to muster up behavior change, the heart change is what is necessary.
- To see an outward change, we must let deep things change inside first, trusting God, giving Him control and permission.

Places and people create atmospheres.

- The enemy brings people into our lives to deceive us, and to introduce compromise of Kingdom ways.

It's so important to allow God to create the atmosphere that we remain in.

- We need to make sure to surround ourselves with Kingdom-minded people who encourage us and point us back to God.
- We shouldn't forget that Jesus was tempted in the same ways that we are— to put ourselves first, gratify our flesh, and look to our own way of living rather than God's. He can relate, but He can also strengthen us with grace because He knows what we're going through.

Mercy has to do with our past, but grace has to do with today. With God's help, we have the ability to do what we couldn't do otherwise.

- Grace empowers us to say "no" to the world, and be all that God has called us to be in His Kingdom.

Key Verses:

Romans 12:1-2 • Hebrews 2:18 • James 4:7

REAL LIFE APPLICATION

We are called to live a balanced christian life with God's word going in and transformation coming out. For example, church attendance is wonderful but joining that with getting into the word for ourselves and talking with God on a regular basis fills us with His life and transformation. Seeking the Lord on Sundays or in a weekly small group is great, but taking the

next step of bringing things to God the Father every morning, noon, or night is soul-filling, life-giving, and brings joy and renewal.

Our goal in life should always be the authentic pursuit of our Creator. It's easy to get distracted by the business of life, but when we genuinely commit our ways and our time to the Lord we will see clearly, be strengthened, and experience transformation.

Don't let yourself wallow in distraction. What ways are you authentically pursuing Him? How can you take your faith a little deeper this week? Start that conversation with God, His word, and others.

DECLARATIONS

"I choose God, and He chooses me. I reject the distractions of this world that have blinded me and twisted my thinking. I take up the word of God and renew my mind and ways, to God's Kingdom mind and ways. I spend my time focused on God and what He has called me to. I share His word, His life, and His joy that I have received with the world around me, giving all the glory back to Him. I will not allow myself to stay distracted and sidelined by the enemy. I choose to stay Kingdom-minded and focused, to offer myself as a living sacrifice to God daily. To become all that He has created me to be and to do all that He has ordained for me to do."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.



*If hearing God or anything mentioned in this study is new to you then we invite you to take the Next Step.
Further information can be found at reslife.org/nextsteps*