

BEYOND SUNDAY



SERMON DATE • JULY 23, 2023

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.

PRAYER

"God, I slow down right now to recognize that you are here with me. Thank you for loving me the way you do and continuing to speak to me even when I am too busy to listen. You are a perfect teacher, protector, healer, and father and your way of life is the best way. I want what you have for me even if that means life isn't easy. Thank you for wanting your best for me. Amen."

MESSAGE THEME

BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT | KNOW SATAN'S TACTICS

KEY TRUTHS

If we don't learn anything about the enemy, we can get tricked a lot easier. We have to stay vigilant and alert. The enemy comes to distract us and get us focused on things other than God. The enemy is not just a sum of all the evil in the world, he is a spiritual being that chose to rebel against God. When we have anger or bitterness in our hearts we give place to the enemy. When we give him an inch, he will try to take a mile because he wants to kill, steal, and destroy.

The bible warns us not to be swayed by culture but to renew our minds and change the way we think. Keeping our minds set on Christ is vital in a world that tries to pull us in. To do this we use the bible. It leads us to God's way, the right way.

As christians, we are called to suffer for Christ's sake, for righteousness sake, for the gospel's sake, and for the kingdom's sake. We are told that we will be richly blessed for suffering and Jesus was the best example. He did no wrong and yet was punished. All through the book of Acts we can use Paul's life as an example of staying on task while we suffer for God. He was beaten, stoned, tossed in prison, and much worse, yet he kept doing God's will. So when Paul tells us that we might suffer for God, we can follow God and be thankful for the people that went before us and for the illustration their lives are to us now.

The enemy came stealthily because he didn't have the authority to make Adam and Eve do anything. Without the power to make them change all he could do was trick them. He had to convince them God was holding out on them and that there was more.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

A few things to keep in mind this week:

- *Any time we let something become more important to us than God, it becomes an idol.*
- *Though the enemy will try to convince us of things, **the enemy can't make us do anything.***
- *Fear is like faith in reverse.* When we have an abundance of something in our heart, that's the direction we will go.
- *The world is going to try to tell you who you are, but **if you are in Christ, you are a new creation.***
- **To quench the darts of the enemy we can use God's word.**
- **Find time this week to read about the power of the words we speak.**
 - James 3 teaches about the power of our tongue.
 - There is healing in your words and your mouth.
- **The word of God tells you who you are.**

REFERENCE VERSES

- 2 Corinthians 2:11, 12:7-10, 5:21
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- 2 Timothy 2:26
- John 10:10, 8:44
- James 1:16, 3:1-7
- 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- Ephesians 6:12, 6:16
- 1 John 5:19
- Psalms 119:15
- Acts 28:31
- 1 Corinthians 2:8, 10:20
- Luke 4:5-8
- Genesis 2:15
- Matthew 8:28-34
- Proverbs 6:2, 18:21
- Job 3:25
- Romans 10:8
- Philemon 1:6
- Mark 16:17

DECLARATIONS

"I know that the enemy wants to distract me from God and I am not okay with that. I will stay focused and alert, paying attention to the Kingdom of God. As I renew my mind, I can keep from getting pulled into culture. And if I suffer, let it be for the sake of Christ so that the world may see a picture of God's love for them".

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now it's time to write down anything 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*