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Sermon Notes

Slide Deck

Men

Living Deployment Ready

Men, don't miss out on our upcoming series on Living Deployment Ready! God has called us to advance His kingdom. This series will help us hone our skills, so we are always ready for deployment – ready to advance God's kingdom, ready to minister to others in God's power, on the front lines.



- When: Thursday, February 12 to March 26, 2026 (morning and evening options)
- Cost: \$25 until February 1st and \$35 after February 1st.
- Time: Thursdays at 6:30 pm.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/511/responses>

Prayer

Freedom Prayer

We provide a prayer opportunity for anyone who feels the need for increased freedom and personal breakthrough in their lives. You will be walked through a process of Freedom Prayer by 2 or 3 of our trained Ministry Team Members.



Come with an expectant and receptive heart for the Lord to powerfully minister to you!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>

Intercessory Prayer

Join us for Intercessory prayer, Tuesday nights at 6:30pm, or Thursday mornings at 6:30am.



Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/prayer>

Re-Gen

Regen, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Re-gen, for 18 to 30s, meets here at Harborview on the second and fourth Sunday's beginning at 5:30pm.

REGEN

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/re-gen-young-adults-ministry>

Small Groups

Small Groups

Small Groups exist to help each one of us grow up into the life of God within us.

They are a primary mechanism for shepherding through relationship + discipleship.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/368/responses>



Sycamore Commission

Freedom Intensive

The Freedom Intensive Plus Winter 2026 conference will offer four training tracks: Living Set Free (LSF), Hearing God's Voice (HGV), Freedom Prayer Training (FPT), and At the Heart of Generosity (AHG).



The conference will take place on Thursday, February 5, through Saturday, February 7, 2026.

\$105* per person for Early Bird Registration by January 26, 2026 (the price is \$90* if you already own a manual).

\$135* per person for Registration after January 26, 2026 (the price will be \$120* if you own a manual).

*tax included

Have children? We have a special session of Hearing God's Voice for Harborview Families offered weekly this Winter. Details to come!

Learn more, or register here:

<https://sycamorecommission.org/events/events-at-harborview>

Hearing God's Voice - Weekly Class

Can't make it to the weekend intensive?



We will have a 6-week class of Hearing God's Voice on Monday nights beginning February 23rd. You will want to have taken Living Set Free before taking this class. Onsite childcare will be provided. The class is \$40 per person, tax included. If you need childcare, there will be a nominal additional fee.

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/510/responses>

The Edge

Wednesday Night Youth Group

The Edge Youth Group for Middle School and High School meets at Harborview Fellowship at 6:15pm every Wednesday Night.



Giving

Thank you for being a part of Harborview Fellowship Church. Your donations are used to support, grow, and advance God's kingdom through a number of ministries at Harborview Fellowship including Children and Youth ministries, Outreach, Missions, Operations, and Jesus Ministry training both locally and globally.



You can mail a check, or give online to the link below.

Harborview Fellowship
4819 Hunt Street NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Learn more, or register here:

<https://harborviewfellowship.org/give>

Women

Women of Strength Study

Women, you are not an accessory. You are essential. YOU ARE CRITICAL TO GOD'S KINGDOM PURPOSES ON EARTH. The man and woman are to rule the earth together. Each has their role, but just as the triune God collaborates, relates, and rules creation, so the man and woman are to rule the earth. What does that look like?

Women of Strength and Courage

7-Week Study

Feb 12 - Mar 26

Thurs 9:30am or 6:30pm

\$25 until Feb 1, \$35 after

tax included



According to the Bible, how does a woman of strength and courage look? How is she to live in God's design and embrace His call? Ladies, join us for the upcoming 7-session winter study on "Women of Strength and Courage."

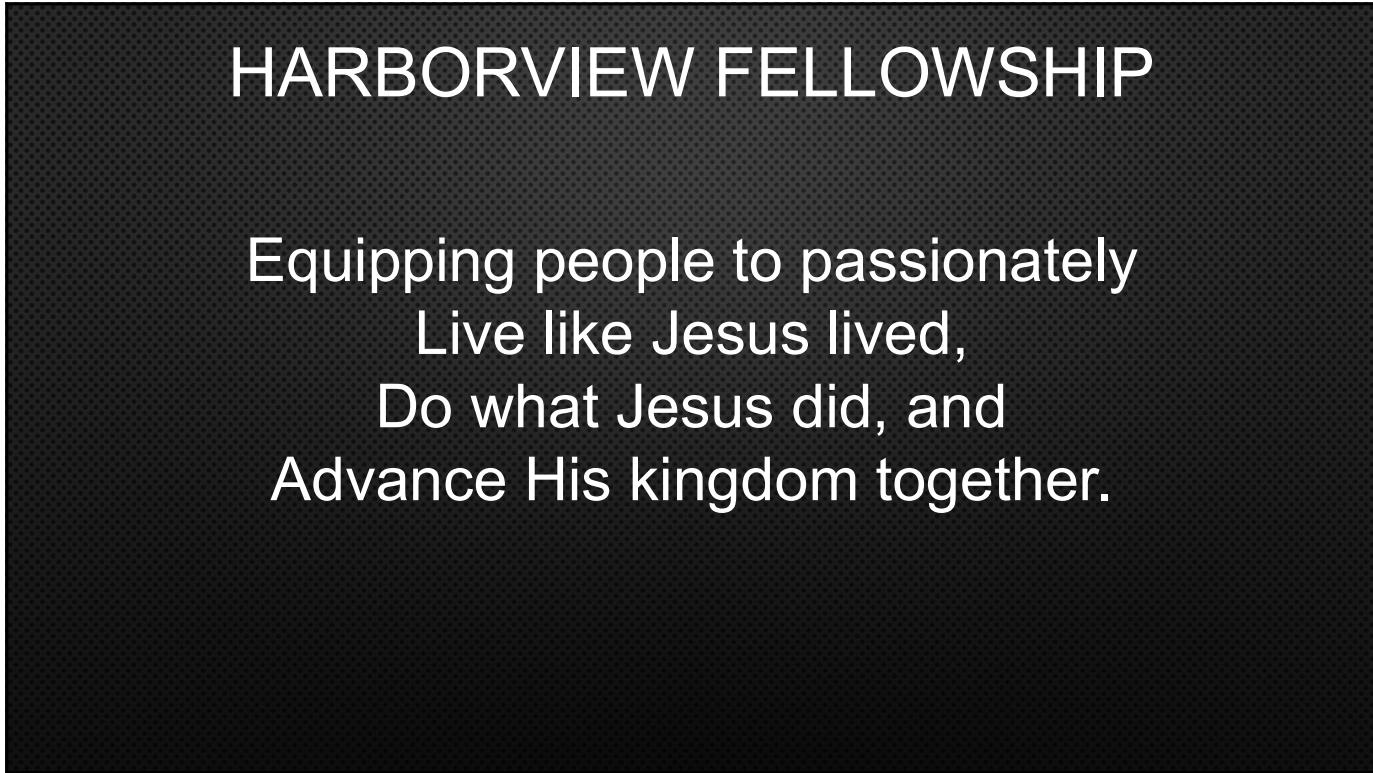
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1

It's What's Inside that Counts !



Matthew Chapters 5-7

The Kingdom: all about the “inside story”

3

STAY ALERT



Matthew 7:15-20 (NKJV) “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.

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THE COMMAND

Matthew 7:15a – “Beware...”



Beware: “be in a state of alert, be concerned about, be on one’s guard”

προσέχω - “proseco” -

- *Present* → **Now!**
- *Active* → **Not passive!**
- *Imperative* → **A Command!**

5

THE COMMAND

Matthew 7:15a – “Beware...”



Beware: “be in a state of alert, be concerned about, be on one’s guard”

We are commanded to:

- *always actively* be in a state of alert,
- *always actively* be concerned about,
- *always actively* be on one’s guard



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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER



*Matthew 7:15 – “Beware of **false prophets**...”*

“*Prophets*” – *religious people who lead*

Includes:

- ✓ *people with a title and those without a title*
- ✓ *people who demonstrate leadership/ initiative*

7

THE COMMAND
THE DANGER (cont.)



*Matthew 7:15 – “Beware of **false prophets**...”*

- *Matthew 16:1-3: “And the Pharisees and Sadducees came ...they asked him to show them a sign ...He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.”*
- *Num 12:1-2: Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses ... they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?...”*

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER (cont.)

Matthew 7:15 – “Beware of false prophets...”



- Jesus' warning was for all time... “*For false christ and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect...*” (Matthew 24:23-25)
- *Paul to Timothy: “For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.”* (2 Timothy 2:2-4)

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE



Matthew 7:15b – “...who come to you in sheep's clothing...”

- “*Looks Good*”:
 - *Outward appearance is attractive*
 - *Gen 3:6: “...the woman saw that the tree was good... that it was pleasant to the eyes...*

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER

THE DISGUISE (cont.)



Matthew 7:15b – “...who come to you in sheep’s *clothing*...”

- “Sounds Good”
 - *Similar to the real thing*
 - *Flattery is dangerous – not the same as encouragement*

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER

THE DISGUISE (cont.)



Matthew 7:15b – “...who come to you in sheep’s *clothing*...”

- *Words and Content* can be “sheep’s *clothing*” and *hide the inner reality*
 - 1 Co 4:19–20: Apostle Paul: “... I will find out *not the talk* of these arrogant people *but their power*. For the kingdom of God does *not consist in talk but in power*.”
 - Luke 19:10: [Jesus]: “*for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save* [Gr. *SOZO*] *that which was lost*.”

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**THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE**



Matthew 7:15b – “... but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

Inner motivation is the issue - self-centered vs. submitted to Jesus as Lord.

James 3:16: “For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every evil thing.”

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**THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE**



Matthew 7:15b – “...but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”

- Jealousy – *Matthew 27:18: [Jesus] “...He knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.”*
- Selfish ambition - *Philippians 2:3: “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”*

“selfish ambition” is not about having goals; it’s about **advancing yourself** at the expense of others, driven by ego, status, or rivalry – it’s **self** at the center.”

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE

THE ISSUE (cont.)

Matthew 7:15b – “...but inwardly they are **ravenous** wolves.”

“**ravenous**”: marked by greed and cruelty; have strong jaws, sharp fangs; behave with fiendish cunning; mercilessly attack, seize, and kill their prey

1 Peter 5:8-9a: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a **roaring lion**, seeking whom he may **devour**.”



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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE

THE ISSUE (cont.)

Matthew 7:15b – “...but inwardly they are **ravenous** wolves.”

Wolves are pack animals – so too are false leaders - grow like a cancer - **they seek to form a group, gather associates and followers**; alone they are weak and more vulnerable, so **their goal is to form a group, a coalition, even a mob**. Such people desire to attack you as “we want, we think, we believe, we need...”



[See Numbers 16 - Korah, Dathan and Abiram]

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE

THE EVIDENCE



Matt 7:16-18: “You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.”

Fact: a good tree cannot bear bad fruit; a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

Promise repeated: “...you will recognize them by their fruits (v20)

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THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE

THE EVIDENCE (cont.)



Jesus curses a fig tree: “outward appearance good,” but has no fruit:

Mark 11:12-14: “...Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to find out if it had any fruit. When He reached it, he found nothing but leaves... Then He said to the tree, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’”

Note: Fruit normally comes first on a fig tree. In early spring, fig trees form tiny figs on the bare branches before the leaves fully unfold. Then the leaves follow shortly after. A fig tree with only leaves looks good “on the outside” – but with no fruit, it is useless...

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*THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE*



THE EVIDENCE (cont.)

Jesus' warning is still relevant today - examples:

- “Heaven and hell are myths.”
- “The God of love will not permit anyone to be punished everlastinglly.” (False “grace”)
- “Satan is a myth – demons are not real”
- *The miracles in the Bible are just poetic illustrations*
- *The gifts of the Spirit listed in the bible no longer exist*
- “Sin is just a mental problem. It has nothing to do with guilt. Get rid of your guilt-complex.”
- “People are not responsible for their so-called sins. The blame, if any, rests on parents or on society.”
- “Everyone has their own truth. My truth does not need to be your truth” (“situation ethics”)

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*THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE
THE EVIDENCE*

THE CONSEQUENCES

For the false Leaders:

Matthew 7:19: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

John 15:6: “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”



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*THE COMMAND
THE DANGER
THE DISGUISE
THE ISSUE
THE EVIDENCE*

THE CONSEQUENCES (cont.)

For deceived Followers (wolves are “ravenous”)

- ***Damaged***
- ***Defeated***
- ***Discouraged***
- ***Distrusting (of any leaders)***



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APPLICATION

1. Monitor your own inner peace

Colossians 3:15: “And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.”

Never ignore your own inner concerns or “lack of peace”

Never say to yourself or others, “It must just be me...”

Hint: Wolves don’t “smell” the same as Sheep – Carnivores vs. Herbivores



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APPLICATION

2. *Humble Yourself*



1 Peter 5:6: Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you

Philippians 2: 5-9: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

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APPLICATION

3. *Test everything in the context of Scripture – in Context*



Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32: [Moses] “You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it...Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. you shall not add to it or take from it.”

See also Revelation 22:18–19

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APPLICATION

4. Beware: *alert to what is not seen with natural senses*

1 Peter 5:8-9a: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. *Resist him, steadfast in the faith*”

Our battle is “not against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:10+)

The enemy is not passive – maintain a mindset to stay alert.



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APPLICATION

5. Take note of the “fruit” - and listen with discernment

Galatians 5:22-23a: “...the fruit of the Spirit is love*, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...”

* biblical “agape” love; not “Hallmark movie” emotional affection

Luke 6:45: “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”



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APPLICATION



6. Pray - for insight and discernment

Philippians 1:9–10 – [Apostle Paul]: “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent...”

Pray to understand the difference between:

Right and Wrong → *Right and Almost Right*