



## Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Caught Not Taught

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

### Message Theme

Caught, Not Taught

### Prayer Focus

*"Father God, settle my heart and clear the noise around me. I don't want to rush past what You have for me today. Let me catch it so that it can take root and grow as I step in obedience with You and Your Word. I trust You, I love You, and I know you are good. In Jesus Name, Amen."*

### Key Truths

The spirit of faith is caught, not taught. Much of our thinking in America is academic and institutional, but the Word of God and the principles of faith aren't formulaic and robotic—they're relational. This is why scripture describes something like repentance as a change in the *way* we think, not just the *what*. Sometimes, though, our *what* is lacking! Even though growing in our faith isn't about performance and earning something from God, there is training involved. Knowing what God says *so that* we can think differently than the ways we've been stuck in is a necessary part in the process of growth and discipleship. When we think differently, we'll speak and live differently.

God's word needs to be planted in our hearts, but also watered and tended to. Think of your heart as a garden. It would be foolish to plant a seed and neglect it, expecting that it would produce good and healthy fruit anyway. You would water it, tend to it, pull weeds around it, and invest in it. You would probably ask a friend, head to the library, or go online to find tips and strategies for the best cultivation practices for the type of soil the seed was planted in. Then, at the right time, that seed would grow and produce the fruit that you would rightly expect to see. A huge mistake we can make in this seed-planting metaphor is thinking something like, "I've heard that, and I know it," but neglecting to take action. Knowing is not the same as growing. That action we take is speaking His Word, and living His Word.

Knowledge, best practices, and strategies don't grow crops—people do. Good information inspires you to go out and do it, and you catch something in that learning process as desire grows. But your mind changes as you have the revelation: "I can do this." That's the key; revelation to *you*. Jesus tells us to pay attention to what we hear. The measure of intent, focus, and hearing we apply to anything in God's Word is directly proportionate to the measure we see it show up in our lives. Information may comprehend, but it's revelation and experience which understand and transform.

## Practical Application

What is the measure, or type, of study and meditation that you're currently applying to your situation in life? Don't mistake, this isn't about just doing more of it. This is about catching what you're missing. You can push the gas pedal harder, but if you're missing the thing that actually makes the motor run—the gas—you'll stay where you are. The gas is His revelation in you. The revelation is the Word that God is speaking, becoming real on the inside. What's the beautiful part of this? It's the goodness of God that brings us to repentance, and repentance literally means to experience a change in the way we think. This is all done by Him, and received and agreed with by us! No measure of trying harder will bring the moment of "AHA!" God brings that. Our part is to stay present in Him and with what He is saying, speak the same things in faith, and live in the life that results from it.

Today, find a passage of scripture to read and simply sit with it. Stay long enough that something catches inside you or stirs up some desire or curiosity for something that God can lead you in. Then, go with God's flow and watch the result grow in you from that time of prayer, listening, and meditation. Spend time the rest of the day speaking exactly what God showed you, reminding yourself of how real and true it is. Following simple and actionable steps like this daily, we'll see the life God has for us. When you live off of God's revelation to you and through you, not just His information, that's where the real fruit is.

## Reference Verses

- 1 Corinthians 3:6
- 2 Corinthians 4:13
- Mark 4:24
- 1 Peter 2:2
- 1 Samuel 17:34-47, 22:2
- 2 Samuel 21:15-22
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Proverbs 18:21
- Ephesians 4:15-16
- 2 Kings 3:9-18
- Numbers 14:24-28 ,40
- 1 Peter 5:8

## Declarations:

- God's Word is planted in me, and today I choose to tend what He has sown.
- I trust God's process of planting, watering, tending, and harvest.
- I give attention to what I hear, knowing it grows in me.
- I refuse to settle for information alone. I choose God and His revelation coming alive inside my heart.
- I act on what God shows me, even in the small details.

## What's Next?

Here are three daily applications that you can use to help you walk in these truths:

### 1. Connect Your "Belief System" to Your "Sound System"

The message emphasizes that faith is not just a quiet, internal thought—it is an active response. Remember that in the creation story, God **said** before He **saw**.

- **Daily Application:** Stop only talking *to* God about your "mountains" (your problems) and start speaking *to* the problems themselves. Instead of just worrying about a stressful situation, vocally declare the outcome you are believing for based on the promises found in the Bible.

### 2. Practice the "Watering" Principle

Information alone doesn't change you; only "revelation" does, and revelation comes through repetition (watering the seed). Hearing something once is rarely enough to make it a part of your character.

- **Daily Application:** Identify one core truth or goal you want to live by and "water" it throughout the day. Don't just read a Bible verse once in the morning and move on. Revisit it at lunch, keep it on your phone lock screen, and meditate on it during your commute. Repetition is what moves a truth from your head to your heart.

### 3. Seek "Catchable" Environments

Certain qualities, like a "spirit of faith," are **caught rather than taught**. Just as a cold log catches fire by being placed next to a burning one, your attitude is shaped by those you stand next to.

- **Daily Application:** Audit your "wood stove." If you are feeling discouraged or stagnant, look at the people you spend the most time with. Are they "burning logs" who inspire spiritual growth and victory, or are they "discontent and in distress"? Intentionally place yourself in environments—whether through a church group, a specific friendship, or even the media you consume—where the attitude you want to possess is already "on fire."

---

Which of these three areas—your speech, your routine of repetition, or your social environment—do you feel currently needs the most attention?