



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Know Your Enemy

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

Know Your Enemy

Prayer Focus

"Father, I come before You with an open heart. Speak truth to every place in me that feels weak, broken, or unsure. Silence every lie of the enemy, and let Your voice be the one I hear. Strengthen my spirit, steady my thoughts, and align my heart with Yours. I receive Your peace, Your truth, and Your presence right now. In Jesus name, Amen."

Key Truths

Just because we're Christians doesn't mean we won't face troubles. Scripture tells us plainly that hardship is guaranteed in this life. We can't live as if the devil doesn't exist and still expect to walk in everything God has for us. If we aren't actively standing against the enemy, he will take advantage of us. He targets those who don't realize he exists, those who ignore him, and those who unknowingly participate with him.

Faith doesn't remove our feelings. But we must be careful not to let our emotions make decisions for us. When our thoughts stay fixed on Christ, peace follows. And we have to remember: people are not the enemy. Our true enemy is the devil. When we blame God for the troubles we face, we cut ourselves off from the connection and blessing He wants to give. God is not the author of destruction or pain.

Repentance is essential—but not only when we've done something wrong. The enemy is skilled at what he does, and we must stand strong against him, refusing to give him any foothold. Repentance is asking the Lord to change us from the inside out, shaping our heart to reflect His.

Human nature wants to blame others for the pain we face. We assume mistakes require consequences and kindness should earn rewards. But that mindset sets us up for disappointment. People can fail us. God does not. When we look to Him as our rewarder, we will never be disappointed.

Leadership isn't a title—it's influence. Every person influences someone. And people are often moved more by the height of our enthusiasm than the depth of our wisdom. Excitement is contagious. People catch it and carry it.

Practical Application

When we remember the things God has done for us, it causes faith to rise up in our hearts. When we take the time to remember what God has done, there is an anointing that becomes present for Him to do what He has done before. Another thing that benefits our faith is to be thankful. Look at all God has done for you and on your behalf. Take time in this moment to thank Him.

Your circumstances, past experiences, or faulty thinking may tell you that you're not good enough, that you're too broken, or that God can't use you. Assure your heart by speaking the truth God says about you over yourself and your situation. Remember: He's right. Below (in the 'declarations' section) are some declarations to get you started. Take time right now to speak them out loud over yourself.

Reference Verses

- 1 Samuel 30:1-20
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Matthew 11:12
- John 14:1
- Isaiah 26:3
- Ephesians 6:12, 6:8
- Job 9:22-24
- 2 Corinthians 4:1
- Romans 12:8
- 1 John 3:19-20
- Psalms 116:7-8, 78:41-48
- Philemon 1:6
- Revelation 19:10
- Mark 6:49-52

Declarations

Life is released when your words are in agreement with God. Intentionally speaking life and biblical truth out loud is extremely powerful. In fact, you have that very life in the power of your tongue. These words below, when spoken out loud, will cause an acceleration of the reality of God's words in your life. We encourage you to speak the following with an expectancy to renew your mind and see God's fullness.

- "God has qualified me for my share of the inheritance."
- "I am blood-washed and my past is gone."
- "I have been given the name of Jesus."
- "The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in me."
- "Jesus took my sins to the cross and rose victorious over sin, death, and the devil."

What's Next?

Now it's time to put what you've learned into action. Here are three ways you can apply this message to your daily life:

1. Guard What You Meditate On

When trouble hits, your mind naturally paints the worst-case scenario. Today, notice where your thoughts drift when something is weighing on you, and deliberately redirect them to what God says about your situation rather than what your circumstances are shouting at you. Speak this over yourself: "I keep my mind stayed on You, and You keep me in perfect peace."

2. Encourage Yourself Instead of Waiting for Someone Else To

David didn't wait for his men to lift his spirits — he assured his own heart by remembering what God had already done for him. Today, take a few minutes to recall a specific way God has come through for you in the past, and speak truth to your own heart: you're forgiven, accepted, and equipped, regardless of what your conscience is condemning you for.

3. Stop Looking to People to Repay You

Whenever you sacrifice time, resources, or effort for someone, there's a temptation to expect them to return the favor — and disappointment when they don't. Today, if you do something good for someone, consciously release the expectation of repayment and do it "as unto the Lord," trusting Him — not people — to reward it.