Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Still Worth It

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

Why Faith Doesn't Make Life Easy

Prayer Focus

"Father, I come before You today with an open heart and steady faith. On my hardest days, You remain my strength, my refuge, and my victory. I ask You to speak clearly to me, to steady my emotions, and to fill me with courage. Remind me who I am in You and the authority You've given me. As I look at Your Word, help me see the path to perseverance and the power of resisting the enemy. Strengthen my spirit, sharpen my focus, and anchor me in Your truth. I declare that today is a day of clarity, confidence, and victory in Jesus' name. Amen."

Key Truths

Continuing to look at what we do on the worst day of our life, we return again to the life of David in *1 Samuel*. In the last few Beyond Sundays, we talked about the first steps to take when everything falls apart: don't let emotions run your life, repent, refuse bitterness, encourage yourself in the Lord, get a word from God, and get a vision of total victory.

Now our focus is this: **Get ready to persevere.**
We already know life isn't easy, but we must keep a picture of total victory in front of us. Without a vision of that reality, giving up becomes the easiest option. Perseverance is simply choosing to keep going when everything in and around us wants us to stop.

The Christian life is a battle from beginning to end. Many believers assume everything that happens is from God, but Scripture gives us clarity. In 1 Peter 5:8, we're told plainly that the enemy is actively seeking someone to devour. The devil is never finished trying to pull our attention away from God. That's why the Bible commands us to "resist him." It's not a suggestion. It's a powerful call to action--to remain unchanged.

We find God's victory when we're unmoved in the fight and refuse to quit. But if we allow the enemy to have his way in the small things, we unintentionally give him more and more room in our lives. Scripture promises that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Resistance is not passive; it's intentional, steady perseverance.

Practical Application

On the worst day of our life, we can't afford to be passive. If we think the devil will leave us alone just because we leave him alone, we're missing something important. The enemy is active on the earth, and that means we must be active in resisting him. We have every right—and every biblical reason—to get spiritually fed up with his attacks. So today's application is simple: **stand your ground, resist him intentionally, and refuse to give him even an inch of influence.** Where have you been a bit relaxed in your standing? What have you laid down that God never asked you to? What have you picked up that doesn't belong? Perseverance begins with a decision to stand instead of backing down.

Reference Verses

- 1 Samuel 30:1-12, 30:16
- Proverbs 29:18
- Hebrews 12:2
- Philippians 3:13-14
- Luke 4:13
- Matthew 11:12
- 2 Samuel 23:9-12
- 1 Peter 5:8-9
- 2 Thessalonians 3:5
- Colossians 1:13
- Ephesians 4:26-27, 6:12
- Isaiah 28:15

Declarations:

- **"I resist the enemy** — I refuse to give the devil any room in my life. He will flee from me."
- **"I stand firm** — I will not quit, back down, or be shaken. God strengthens me to endure."
- **"I walk in victory** — God has given me authority, and I choose to live from a place of total victory."
- **"I am strengthened in the Lord** — God is the source of my courage, my hope, and my endurance."
- **"I hold onto God's word** — His promises guide me, anchor me, and empower me."

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 - Pursue, Don't Just Hope
This week, identify one area of your life where the enemy has taken ground — your health, your peace, a relationship, a habit — and instead of passively hoping it improves, actively pursue its recovery like David did in 1 Samuel 30. God's word to David wasn't "wait," it was "pursue and you will recover all." Take one

concrete action this week toward recovering what's been stolen.

2 - Stay Angry at the Right Target
Per Ephesians 4:26-27, practice directing righteous anger at the devil's work — not at people. When frustration or conflict shows up this week, pause and ask: am I angry at a person, or am I recognizing an attack I need to resist? Use your authority (James 4:7) to resist the enemy directly rather than letting anger spill onto the people around you.

3 - Guard the "Bean Field"
Following the example of Shammah defending a field of beans, don't dismiss small compromises as insignificant. This week, identify one "small thing" you've let slide — a thought pattern, a habit, a minor boundary — and take a stand on it before it grows into something bigger. Small, consistent faithfulness in minor battles prevents major losses later.