



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: The Element of Surprise (At The Enemy's Gate pt. 3)

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.

Scripture References The Element of Surprise

2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV ... lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

1 Peter 5:8-9 NKJV 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...

Ezekiel 28 NKJV

James 4:7 NKJV Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Ephesians 4:26 ESV Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger...

John 10:10 NKJV The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 3:17 NKJV For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 10:10 NKJV The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 NKJV Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

Ephesians 6:12 TLB For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7 NKJV a thorn in the flesh...a messenger of Satan...

2 Corinthians 12:10 NKJV ... in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake.

1 Peter 2:18-25 NKJV Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving [us] an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for

righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

2 Timothy 2:12 KJV If we suffer, we shall also reign with him...

Matthew 5:11-12 NKJV Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

1 Corinthians 2:8 NKJV ... which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Luke 4:5-7 NKJV Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

1 Corinthians 10:20 NKJV Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

Revelation 13:3-4 NKJV And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

Revelation 13:15 NKJV He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.

Genesis 1:26 NKJV Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Psalms 115:16 NKJV The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.

Genesis 2:15 AMPC And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard and keep it.

Psalms 8:4-6 NKJV What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet...

Luke 4:6 NKJV And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

John 14:30 NKJV I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming...

Romans 12:2 NKJV And do not be conformed to this world...

John 8:44 NKJV You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Ephesians 6:16 NKJV ...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

James 3:6 NKJV ... it is set on fire by hell.

Proverbs 6:2 NKJV You are snared by the words of your mouth...

Job 3:25-26 NKJV For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet; I have no rest, for trouble comes.”

Proverbs 21:23 AMPC He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from troubles.

James 3:2-5 MSG Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life. A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

James 3:5-6 MSG It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

James 3:6 AMPC [The tongue is a] world of wickedness set among our members, contaminating and depraving the whole body and setting on fire the wheel of birth (the cycle of man's nature), being itself ignited by hell (Gehenna).

Philemon 6 KJV That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 107:2 NKJV Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...

2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 4:16 NKJV Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Colossians 1:12 NKJV ... giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Mark 11:23 NKJV ...he will have whatever he says.

Matthew 4:4 NKJV "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Joshua 1:8 NKJV This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Romans 10:8 NKJV But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach)