



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: From Past Mistakes to Divine Purpose
(Reversing the Devil's Decisions pt 4)

This guide offers 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.

Message Theme

Let Go, Look Ahead

Prayer Focus

Father, thank You for who You are and what You're doing in my life. Please remind me that the true enemy is the Devil, not the people I encounter every day. Grant me Your guidance and wisdom in handling conflicts with others, and help me forgive those who wronged me in the past. I stand in awe of You and praise You daily. In Jesus' holy name, amen.

Key Truths

God has a plan for our lives, but it's our choice to follow it. No life is as fulfilling as the one He prepared for us, as it's the life we were created to live. Conversely, the Thief also has a plan for us—one of destruction and chaos. If we examine our lives and see the enemy's work—stealing, killing, and destroying what we hold dear—we must recognize that it's the will of Satan, not God. But it's important to understand that our true enemy is not a person—it's not our boss, our neighbor, someone in an opposing political party, or even a family member. John 10 says there's a spiritual force behind the flesh and blood people we perceive as enemies. There's real satanic and demonic power in the world, and *that's* our true adversary, not the people we encounter every day. Satan is the root cause of war, disease, pestilence, violence, famine, and all other evils in the world.

However, the Bible teaches us how to combat evil through the Word of God. In Matthew, after John baptizes Jesus, He's led into the desert to be tempted. Each time Satan approached Christ with a new temptation, Jesus countered by quoting Scripture. We must use the truth within us to confront the enemy. When we meditate on God's Word, we develop a reverence—a fear—of the Father. Just like the kings of Israel who wrote down Scripture, kept it close, and read it daily, we, too, should immerse ourselves in the Bible every day. Without a healthy fear of God, our desires may align with wickedness, and evil behavior may cease to bother us.

Just like a sower planting seeds, the condition of our hearts determines how the Word of God grows within us. The seeds remain unchanged, but the state of our hearts varies. Will the Word fall on hard ground and be stolen by the enemy? Will it fall on shallow ground and struggle to take root? Will it fall among thorns and be

choked? Or will it fall on good soil and grow as God intends? The Bible provides the recipe to change the state of our hearts. Let the Word be on our lips—speak it aloud. Let it be in our minds—think on it. And keep it with care—do what it says. Speak, think, and do.

All of us have been hurt by others in the past, and we cannot change that. What's done is done. However, it's impossible to grasp what God offers us if our hands are full of the past. When we're constantly focused on the past, it affects our present. We need to forgive and let go. Though it's not easy, letting go of the past frees us to receive what God has for us and align ourselves with His will. It enables us to get back on track and move forward without looking back. God wants to provide the absolute best for us but to receive it, we must let go and forgive.

Practical Application

Letting go isn't easy, but the best place to start is by reading God's Word, meditating on it, speaking it, and doing it. Then, reflect on the people you may hold grudges against or harbor anger towards due to their words, actions, or the harm they caused.

Spend time with God and release these burdens to Him. Remember, forgiveness is a *choice*. You may still feel angry or hurt, but frequently bring it to the Father and tell Him you forgive them. Repeatedly giving it to God allows His healing to work in your heart.

Reference Verses

- Jeremiah 29:11
- John 10:10
- Ephesians 6:11-12, 14-17
- 1 John 5:19
- Matthew 4:1-7
- Luke 4
- Deuteronomy 17:18-20
- 1 Peter 2:2
- Mark 4
- Joshua 1:8
- Philippians 4:8
- 2 Corinthians 4:13
- Numbers 13:27-28, 14:24
- Mark 11
- Hebrews 9:11-12, 14, 12:18-24
- Romans 3

Declarations

- The Devil is my true enemy, not the people around me.
- I will speak the Word, think the Word, and do the Word.
- I choose to forgive those who have hurt me in the past.

What's Next?

Application Guide -

God has a plan for our lives, but it's our choice to follow it. The most fulfilling life is the one He prepared for us. Conversely, the devil also has a plan, one of destruction and chaos. When we see stealing, killing, and destruction in our lives, we must recognize it as Satan's work, not God's. Our true enemy is not any person but the spiritual forces behind them, as highlighted in John 10.

Here are some practical steps we can take away from this week's message:

First: Get on Track, Stay on Track and Never Look Back - The Bible teaches us to combat evil by using the Word of God. After Jesus was baptized and tempted in the desert, He countered each temptation by quoting Scripture. We must use this same truth to confront the enemy. Meditating on God's Word helps us develop reverence for Him. Like the kings of Israel who wrote down, kept, and read Scripture daily, we too should immerse ourselves in the Bible every day to stay on track and never look back.

Second: Speak, Think, Do the Word - Just like a farmer planting seeds, the condition of our hearts determines how the Word of God grows within us. The seeds remain unchanged, but the state of our hearts varies. The Bible provides the recipe to change the state of our hearts. Let the Word be on our lips—speak it aloud. Let it be in our minds—think on it. And keep it with care—do what it says.

Third: Forgive and Let Go of the Past - All of us have been hurt by others in the past, and we cannot change that. What's done is done. However, it's impossible to grasp what God offers us if our hands are full of the past. When we're constantly focused on the past, it affects our present. We need to forgive and let go. Though it's not easy, letting go of the past frees us to receive what God has for us and align ourselves with His will. It enables us to get back on track and move forward without looking back. God wants to provide the absolute best for us but to receive it, we must let go and forgive.

Letting go isn't easy, but the best place to start is by reading God's Word, meditating on it, speaking it, and doing it. Reflect on those who've hurt you and release the burden to Him. Forgiveness is a choice. Bring your hurt to God often. Repeatedly giving it to Him allows His healing to work in your heart.

Scripture References From Past Mistakes to Divine Purpose

Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Ephesians 2:10 AMPC ...[living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

John 10:10 NKJV The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

Ephesians 6:12 TLB For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood...

Ecclesiastes 8:8 NKJV There is no release from that war...

Ephesians 6:12 TLB For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies...

Ephesians 6:12 TLB ...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.

1 John 5:19 AMPC We know [positively] that we are of God, and the whole world [around us] is under the power of the evil one.

2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV ...the god of this world...

Matthew 4:1-4 NKJV Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Luke 4:5-7 NKJV REF 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.”

Ephesians 6:17 NKJV And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

Mark 4:13-20 NKJV REF And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, [a]accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

Deuteronomy 17:18-19 NKJV “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life...

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 REF “Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from *the one* before the priests, the Levites. **19** And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD...”

James 4:6 NKJV But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:

“God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble.”

Joshua 1:8 BBE Let this book of the law be ever on your lips and in your thoughts day and night, so that you may keep with care everything in it; then a blessing will be on all your way, and you will do well.

2 Corinthians 4:13 NKJV And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,

Philippians 4:8 KJV Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

2 Corinthians 4:13 NKJV And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,

Numbers 13:27-28 NKJV Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there.

Numbers 13:30 NKJV Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

Numbers 14:24 NKJV But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

1 John 3:19 NKJV ...and shall assure our hearts before Him.

Romans 3:25 NKJV whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

Hebrews 9:11 NKJV But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Hebrews 9:12 NKJV Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:14 NKJV ...how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God

Colossians 1:11-13 NKJV ...strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and long suffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Hebrews 9:14 NKJV How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 12:22-24 NKJV But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.