

**Seeds for Sermons:
Book 1**

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Unless otherwise indicated
all Scripture quotations are taken
from the King James Version of the Bible.

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Dedication

To my late husband, Tom Thompson, Jr. whose support and encouragement have made this book a reality.

His patience with the extended travel and continued growth of American Mission Teams has produced much fruit.

Tom went home to be with the Lord in 2004.

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Thank you for your years of patience, encouragement, and guidance. Also, your use of the editor's red pen...

Also a special thank you to my pets whose companionship, love, and antics have been a source of enjoyment and laughter. (Laughter is good medicine and health to your bones).

Foreword

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1 is a work of history, dedication, and true commitment to the spreading of the Gospel. It symbolizes Thirty-five years of reading, studying, and listening to sermons and teachings.

As Dr. Thompson attended Bible School and then went into ministry. A still small voice inside of her whispered: “take notes; make a record of what God gives you.” This book is the result of her obedience to the still small voice and the discipline she learned.

As the years went by and her collection of notes continued to grow, the Lord gave Dr. Thompson a dream. This dream involved compiling her notes and authoring books. The books would present biblical information and sermon presentations in an easy, understandable format.

Because of variety of topics in this first collection, I feel that three vital questions still need to be answered.

I. The *why* of this book

This collection of sermon notes will assist young pastors and ministers in sermon development. The book can also be used as a study guide for personal growth.

II. The *who* of this book

This material is intended for the following. First, the pastors – for their preaching purposes. Second, to the students – offering them a quick resource to God’s Will. Finally, for teachers – to help design effective lessons.

III. The *what* of this book

The book outlines specific topics with scriptural references. There is room for the reader's notes and thoughts. The author's hope is that the collection will encourage the student to develop their own messages from the material provided.

I met Dr. Thompson in 1994 when I was a student. Her dedication and commitment to God's Work was inspiring. She taught me the importance of setting aside time to study and meditate in the Word. She stressed to me the importance of an intimate relationship with the Lord and to know that God is God.

Her collection of sermon notes, *Seeds for Sermons – Book 1*, is informative and inspirational. I find it extremely useful and am excited for the next volume.

Loretta F Strong

Preface

As I think back over the past thirty-five years, I realize how much I have been blessed. Shortly after I was saved in 1980, I started reading the Bible and listening to it on tape. I attended Bible School and I went into ministry.

Taking notes while reading, hearing sermons, and studying became a habit which has served me well. It has been both a dream and goal of mine to outline these volumes of notes so it will benefit and bless those who study them. Truly there is nothing new under the sun. With this outline, we can truly increase our knowledge and understanding.

Dr. Verda Thompson

Introduction

There are many demands on a believer's time; sometimes they are overwhelming. Believers need to set aside time to study and meditate in the Word.

This book will provide an opportunity for the believer, minister, teacher, etc. to cultivate an effective study time. In addition to this, these outlines enable the reader to create positive and organized study habits. By doing so, the reader will develop a more intimate relationship with the Lord, learn to recognize and understand God's nature, and appreciate the value of His Word.

These outlines are designed for a person to study and research the outline; then make it their own. The hope is that in doing so, each person can develop messages using examples, stories, etc. that are personal to them. This will express their individuality and personality in their message and/or teaching. This will help alleviate the many demands on a believer's time.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: As We Think, So We Are

Scripture: II Corinthians 10:3-5

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Outline

- I. The Thought Process
 - A. Consideration – To reflect and regard, take into account, or form an opinion.
 - B. Imagination – To form mental image, perception without concrete evidence, or create mental concept.
 - C. Absorbed Mentality – to engross completely.
 - D. Intellect – Ability to think, to reason, to grasp, and capacity to learn.
 - E. Contemplation – To muse, to plan, or to intend (intention).
 - F. Mediation – To continually think seriously and carefully.
- II. The Action
 - A. Wherever the mind goes, the body will follow.
 - B. Do we respond (considering Scripture) or react (without considering results).
 - C. We are snared by the words of our mouth – Mat. 12:35-37.

As We Think, So We Are

Consider this:

The Christian walk is a type of warfare. There is both a positive and a negative part to the walk. The soul man must be brought under the control of the Spirit, therefore in service to God.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

III. Decision

- A. Our mind is our own and we have power over our thoughts.
- B. The mind of Christ is available to us – Phil. 2:3-5
- C. The mind of sense and reasoning – Acts 26:22-29
 - 1. Don't take sides. Jesus is the supreme example.
 - 2. The Word does not make sense to the unbeliever.

IV. Change – Read Isa. 55

- A. Comes from inside out – Strongholds must be broken in obedience to God's Word.
- B. Comes when thinking does.
- C. What do we think about?
- D. Time to read and reflect on Phil. 4:8-9 (things of good report) and Isa. 26:3-4 (we must stay our mind in Him).
 - 1. Change is painful and we do not like it.
 - 2. Our faith must be in the Cross. This gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to help us.
 - 3. When our mind is stayed on Christ, we have perfect peace.
 - 4. We must have complete trust in the Lord.

As We Think, So We Are

Consider This:

A carnal Christian attends more to both their physical life and the mental realm rather than surrendering to the Lord; trusting Him and His word. We must be diligent what we trust in and give place to.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The Unique You

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ⁵Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. ⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. ⁷But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. ⁹Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. ¹⁰See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Outline

- I. Before we were formed in our mother's womb, God knew us – paraphrased from Jer. 1:4-7.
 - A. We are, *each of us*, one of a kind.
 - B. We are a present to the world – Rev. 1:5,6.
 1. We are special.
 2. We are kings and priests.
 - C. God will never leave us or forsake us – Josh. 1:5-9, Deut. 31:6-8, Ps. 18:43-46.
 1. Obedience to God's Word is the key.
 2. He has delivered us.
- We can be of good courage and His promise assures us "we will not be defeated".

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. God has a plan/assignment for each of us – Jer. 29:11-13.
 - A. Plan is for good and not for evil.
 - B. We will have an expected end – a successful life.
 - C. Be willing and obedient to God’s Word – Isa. 1:16-18.
 - III. We are one body, but many members – I Cor. 12:14 (read entire chapter 12.)
 - A. God’s plan for you is unique only to you.
 - 1. Study to show yourself approved – II Tim. 2:14-16.
 - 2. We must study the Word, gain knowledge, understanding, and wisdom.
 - B. Follow the plan God has for your life – find your gift – Rom. 12:3-11.
 - C. Stay in your own lane.
 - 1. Run the course with patience and thankfulness – Rom. 12:1-4.
 - 2. Our life on the earth is a race and this race requires patience, endurance, and perseverance as does an athlete run their race.
 - D. Focus – keep your eyes on Jesus.
 - E. Avoid confusion and division – God is not the author of confusion.
- Transformation comes as we renew our mind.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The Blessed Man

Scripture: Psalms 1:1-3

¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Outline

- I. The blessed man does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.
 - A. His Word is our lamp and our light – Ps. 119:105
 - B. Ps. 15:2,3
 - 1. Walk uprightly – commit your plans to the Lord
 - 2. Speak truth – commit to godly conversation.
 - 3. Righteous man is not moved – reject wrong doing
 - C. Lev. 26:3-13.
 - 1. Rain in due season – be ready.
 - 2. Peace – serve the Lord without pride or selfish ambition.
 - 3. Fruitful and multiply – be constant in your zeal.
 - 4. He will walk among us (with you) – study and know God’s Word
 - D. Rom. 8:1-2 – no condemnation.
 - 1. Do not walk after the flesh.
 - 2. Walk after the Spirit.

The Blessed Man

Consider This:

Our walk is important to both God and to those around us. It is important to walk the Word being a 'Living Epistle,' rather than just talking the talk.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. Do not stand in the way of sinners.
 - A. Be careful with whom you hang around.
 - 1. Stand in the way of the Lord.
 - 2. Leave the presence of those who do not honor God
Prov. 14:7-9.
 - Our knowledge comes from God, not man.
 - B. Influence (good or bad) starts slowly and progresses.
 - 1. Change comes over time.
 - 2. The decision to change often happens when staying the same becomes too painful.
 - C. Stand fast in faith.
 - 1. Watch, stand, and be strong – I Cor. 16:13-14.
 - 2. When all is done, stand therefore – Eph. 6:13-18.
 - Resist the powers of darkness and do not retreat.
 - 3. Stand in the House of the Lord – Ps. 134.
 - Lift your hands and give Him praise.
- Verbs in the Greek language are continuing action, such as 'stand and keep on standing,' 'run and keep on running,' and 'pray and keep on praying.'

The Blessed Man

Consider This:

Motivational speakers have stated that research and experience have shown a person's personality is heavily influenced by 5 people with whom they spend the most time. Many times one takes on the characteristics, mindsets, personality quirks, attitudes, mannerisms, habits, speech patterns, etc. of those they are with. Who is influencing you?

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- III. Do not sit with scorners (scoffers).
 - A. Order your lifestyle according to the Word of God.
 - B. To sit indicates a comfortable position – even to recline.
 - 1. Planning to spend time.
 - 2. Not in a hurry to leave.
 - 3. Meet with.
 - 4. Dine with.
 - C. Grace is given to the lowly (those who revere and obey the Lord).
 - 1. God scorns the scorner – Prov. 3:33-35.
 - 2. Keep the commandments of the Lord and live – Prov. 4:4-15.
 - a. Meditation on the Word brings continual blessings.
 - b. Your years shall be many – Prov. 4:10.
 - c. You shall have success – Josh. 1:8-9.
- We either follow Christ, or are against Him.
- The ungodly is referred to as chaff.
- The blessed man is Christ-like.

The Blessed Man

Consider This:

Please read Ps. 1:4-6. This describes those who do not obey the Lord. Scoffers express contempt, jeering, and mockery. Many times we think the ungodly are really successful, but God is the judge. Remember, rain falls on both the just and the unjust, and God is the final judge. Those we spend time with can affect our happiness and success.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The Importance of Forgiveness

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-22

²¹Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²²Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Outline

- I. Scripture requires continual forgiveness.
 - A. 70 x 7 is 490. This equals 1440 minutes a day. When divided by 60, forgiveness is every 2 to 3 minutes.
 1. There is nothing legalistic or magical about 70 x 7 or 490.
 2. Could be interpreted as forgiveness has no boundaries; there is no end to forgiveness.
 3. Leave no room for grudges and bitterness.
 - B. How much forgiveness is required? Lk. 7:40-50.
 1. Do not forgive with prejudice, partiality, or by what benefit comes from man through forgiveness.
 2. If a person forgives little, they love little.
 3. Love by choice not by circumstance.
 - This comes from the heart.
 - To operate in God's Grace and to receive His Grace, remember the authority and Kingship of Jesus.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. Shall forgive and remember sin no more – Jer. 31:31-34.
 - A. Speaks of God’s New Covenant with His people.
 - 1. Putting His Law within us; a new covenant – Heb. 8:7-13.
 - 2. Writing it on our hearts.
 - B. Christ carried our burdens, griefs – Isa. 53:4-6.
 - 1. Wounded for our transgressions – our substitute.
 - Jesus was not cursed. He became a curse so that we would not be cursed.
 - 2. Bruised for our iniquities – voluntarily accepted our guilt and punishment.
 - We wander from our path and take detours.
 - New Covenant is revealed in the New Testament.
- III. Results of unforgiveness – Mat. 6:12-15.
 - A. Must forgive to be forgiven.
 - B. Settle differences quickly – Mat. 5:21-26.
- IV. We are paralyzed when we do not forgive.
 - A. A never-ending cycle occurs – we hold ourselves and others in bondage.
 - Do not reward evil with evil.
 - B. We are not forgiven and our blessings are blocked.
 - When we do not forgive, we oppose the Lord. We are in danger when we do that; this is something to strongly ponder.

The Importance of Forgiveness

Consider This:

Be careful how we speak to others. It is important to reconcile immediately, as conflict causes greater problems when it is not resolved. Forgive others as you spend time in daily prayer.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- V. Unforgiveness results in a “root of bitterness”.
 - A. Results in every kind of evil thing – James 3:13-18
 - 1. Bitter heart – Prov. 14:10-11.
 - Our heart is either heavy or joyful.
 - 2. Be careful of quick temper and foolish acts – Prov. 16:16-32.
 - We must not continue in a carnal fashion.
 - 3. Conflicts come to damage relationships.
 - B. Respond and do not react.
 - 1. Take time to seek God and pray when opportunities for anger arise. Do not let the sun go down... Eph. 4:21-27.
 - 2. We must examine ourselves to see what part we may have caused.
 - 3. Release the person and forgive them as God forgives us – Jn. 20:21-23.
 - Unforgiveness activates our sin nature and will begin to rule over us.
 - Wisdom from above proclaims Christ and the Cross.
 - When we receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, our sins are forgiven.
 - However, if we reject Salvation, our sins remain.

The Importance of Forgiveness

Consider This:

When we forgive we release ourselves as well as those with whom we are angry; what they choose to do with the release is up to them. Holding onto anger only causes it to grow. There is a truth that says – “Do not nurse it and rehearse it, because if we do we will never reverse it.” We must correct our own fault before we can correct others; we must forgive ourselves for our part in the situation.

“Work on yourself for yourself. The only person you can be better than today is the person you were yesterday.” Quote by Christopher Goneau “CJ”

⁸Finally, my brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are right, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue and if there is any praise, think on these things. ⁹Do those things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me. And the God of peace shall be with you. . Phil. 4:8-9

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

Scripture: I John 4:1-5

¹Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ²Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ⁴Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. ⁵They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

Outline

- I. The World – do not love the world – Jn. 15:17-19, 16:32-33.
 - A. The world is not the earth or universe.
 1. Represents world values which are contrary to God's will.
 2. World system and its attraction.
 - B. Effects of the love of the world – I Cor. 3:18-23.
 1. Alienation from God.
 2. Corruption, craftiness, arrogance.
 3. False teachings, deception, and scheming – II Pet. 2:1-4.
 4. Separation from Christian community.
- The world hates believers because their faith is in the Cross and Christ and not in the world system.

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

Consider This:

The world system and its values often seem to offer opportunities and pleasure. Many times the believer is drawn away from God's will for his/her life. This drawing away causes separation from God. These opportunities and pleasures are only there for an instant or short season of time. Two major things to heed are what you listen to and what you follow.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. The Flesh – Mk. 14:38.
 - A. In Scripture represents:
 - 1. Carnal nature.
 - 2. Sinful principle – Gal. 5:19-21 lists such types of sinfulness.
 - 3. God opposes such nature.
 - B. Flesh is not eradicated for the Christian, however:
 - 1. He/she does not have to obey the flesh – Rom. 6:1-6.
 - 2. Christians possess a new nature empowered by the Holy Spirit (Spiritual Transformation) Rom. 6:6, Col. 3:5-15.
 - C. Flesh and Spirit are totally opposed to each other – Carnal nature is not in line with God’s Spirit.
 - 1. *The one which dominates will be in charge – therefore be careful of your focus.*
 - 2. Christians must acknowledge salvation by the Name of Jesus who nullified the power of sin by His shed blood, death, and resurrection – Acts 4:11-12, Rom. 1:15-17, 6:4-14.
 - 3. Solution is in living under the control of the Spirit Col. 3:12-17.
 - Put on the Fruit of the Spirit, do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus and see how the view changes. – Gal. 5:22-25.

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

Consider This:

When we are saved we have a new nature. However we must develop a relationship with the Lord. It will take commitment and does not happen automatically. We still have a free will, allowing us choose how we think and how we spend our time. We do have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5); however we must choose to use it. We are to put off the old nature and put on the new.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

III. The Devil/Satan

A. Role of Satan

1. Accuser of the brethren.
2. Adversary – opposed to the work of God.
 - a. Mk. 4:14-19
 - b. Job 2:2-7
3. Promotes division and defiance among mankind.

B. Expelled from Heaven – Isa. 14:12-15.

1. Satan's defeat has been secured by Jesus's death on the cross and His resurrection – Lk. 10:18-20.
2. Continues to hinder God's program; Whom he may devour, what we are willing to allow? – I Pet. 5:6-9.

C. Has hierarchy of spirits and principalities – Eph. 6:11-12.

1. Our enemy is not human, however Satan and his hierarchy work through people.
2. Our defense is the Armor of God, being steeped in the Word of God.
 - We must stand and proceed on the Truth of the Word.
 - The enemy attacks us, not because of us, but because of the Word in us. However, God sets the boundaries for our own good.
 - We must resist the devil and the Word tells us "he will flee..."

The World, the Flesh, and the Devil

Consider This:

The parable of the sower, a story to illustrate a spiritual truth, in Mk. 4:1-9 is a core message. It illustrates that the Gospel will meet with different levels of success with those who hear it. The more we study the Word and resist the devil, the more success we will have in God's plan for our lives. This is according to James 4:6-8. Many times when things go wrong or are difficult, we blame the devil, circumstances, and situations. Instead we really need to consider our thoughts and actions.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: Process of Change

Scripture: Romans 12:1-3

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. ³For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Outline

- I. Requires renewing our mind.
 - A. Christ washes us with the water of the Word – Eph. 5:26,27.
 - B. We must agree with God and yield to Him – Eph. 5:8-21.
- II. Change of thoughts and speech will result in change of action.
 - A. Be strong and of good courage – Josh. 1:5-9.
 - 1. Requires inner strength – Hab. 3:17-19, Ps. 18:1-3, 28:6-9, 46:1-2, Isa. 26:4
 - 2. Requires courage – Deut. 31:6-8
 - a. Acknowledge and rely on God's strength and provision.
 - b. Trust in God's presence as He is always with us.
 - B. Obey without murmuring – Phil. 2:12-18.
 - Be content in your Salvation, not constantly arguing with God's guidance.

Process of Change

Consider This:

Many times situations and circumstances move us toward negativity, murmuring, and complaining. These are the times we need to praise and worship the Lord; stand still, and see these situations and circumstances change.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- III. Identify attitudes that need change.
 - A. Negativity blocks the positive thought process.
 - B. Anxiety and stress can bring on illness.
 - C. Fear, doubt, and unbelief are against the Word and are sins.
 - D. Unforgiveness both blocks our blessings and paralyzes us.
- IV. Reverse attitudes that need change.
 - A. Be willing to acknowledge these problems and address them. This is especially important in ministry.
 - 1. Prayer – Mat. 17:19-21, 20:20-21, Rom. 12:9-12.
 - 2. Fasting – Acts 13:1-3, Ps. 35:13.
 - B. Give the attitudes to God.
 - 1. Reinforce and redirect thinking.
 - We must choose to do this.
 - 2. Positive self-talk – who are you in Christ, knowing the truth of the Word comes from Holy Spirit (Spirit of Truth) – Jn. 16:12-15.
 - 3. Be reassured of God’s faithfulness, mercy, forgiveness, and love – Beatitudes Mat. 5:1-12, Eph. 2:4-5, Col. 2:10-16, I Jn. 1:8-9.
 - Jesus is the true Light and that light is available to *each and every* person.
 - As we choose to believe, God’s ways are revealed to us.

Process of Change

Consider this:

Just think of all the opportunities we encounter daily to choose positively or negatively. We can choose to obey or disobey; believe or not; rejoice or be dispirited love or hate. It is important to understand we have free will to choose; we are not robots. The Lord is there for us and Holy Spirit is there to direct us. We must choose each day whom we will serve.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- C. Avoid rehearsing your past thought patterns.
 - 1. Choose repetition and meditation in God's Word.
 - a. Let your meditation be acceptable to God – Ps. 19:7-14.
 - Be careful what we speak.
 - b. Delight yourself in God's Word – Ps. 1:1-3.
 - c. Give attention to God's Word – I Tim. 4:6-16.
 - 2. Set goals for change.
 - a. Short term – one area at a time.
 - b. If you fail, start again – Prov. 24:16.
 - c. Eventually long term changes will come; see yourself change.
 - 3) God strengthens us when we focus on Him.
 - a. Bad things can happen to good people.
 - b. We cannot exploit people in difficult situations.
 - c. Pay attention to the Word of God – not the words of others.
- Do not allow false doctrines to enter.
- Be careful about expounding on opinions.

Process of Change

Consider This:

Many times we impose past attitudes and actions on present circumstances, challenges, and trials. This will not work. We must see ourselves changed and moving from one glory to another. We must verbalize (inward and outward) and encourage ourselves and see us as God sees us.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: Overcoming Temptation

Scripture: II Corinthians 10:3-5

³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Outline

- I. Temptation is an arduous test.
 - A. Not simply doubt
 - B. It entices and solicits us to sin.
 1. We cannot be tempted in areas in which we have no interest. Example: Alcohol does not tempt a person that does not drink.
 2. Temptation challenges a person's beliefs and values.
 3. Temptation's purpose is to destroy.
 - a. Our Testimony
 - b. Our family
 - c. Our life
 - C. We are walking in our "Earth suit", not in our "glorified bodies".
 1. Do not let pride enter.
 2. Allow Holy Spirit to take over our thought patterns.
 3. Do not look outward, but focus inward.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. Temptation is not overcome simply by willpower.
 - A. Temptation is common to man – I Cor. 10:12-17.
 - 1. Through God's Word we are not tempted past our ability to overcome and endure.
 - 2. God limits our trials and temptations. He provides a way to escape.
 - B. Overcoming temptation strengthens our faith and our character – I Pet. 5:6-11.
 - 1. Overcoming temptation requires submission to God and His Word Mat. 6:12-13.
 - 2. We must firmly resist to the wiles of the enemy Gal. 1:1-6.
 - C. God permits trials and temptations.
 - 1. God does not tempt. He does permit trials and temptations. Trials can and should strengthen us.
 - 2. How do we respond?
 - a. We should receive instruction and discipline.
 - b. Do we faint under it?
 - c. Do we blame others? Do we blame God?
 - 3. Attraction to temptation is amplified by Satan, prince of the world system – Jas 1:2-4, II Cor. 10:12-13.
 - a. Satan holds no foothold on Jesus's life.
 - b. Satan has no authority over us without our permission II Jn. 5:4-5.

Overcoming Temptation

Consider This:

In the Book of Job we find that God allowed Satan to put Job to several tests. We understand we do have trials and tests to cause us to grow in faith. I Pet. 1:1-9 we do not rejoice for the test or trial, but for God's grace and mercy that is multiplied to us through our trials and tests. It is important that we realize that we are not mere human beings walking through this temporal life. We must recognize that we are spirit beings created in God's image and we are sojourners here in earth suits that are only temporary. We must look beyond the day to day physical walk.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

III. Areas of Temptation – I Jn. 2:15-17, Mat. 4:1-11.

A. Lust of the eyes

1. Possession – our desire to own
2. Appeals to greed and covetousness.
 - a. We see it; we want it.
 - b. It may belong to someone else – Ex. 20:17.
 - c. Sometimes we become obsessive.

B. Lust of the flesh.

1. Power – people in authority have power, but authority requires responsibility.
2. Appeals to fleshly appetites – Gal. 5:16-21.
 - a. Food – gluttony
 - b. Drink – drunkenness
 - c. Physical – focus on appearance
 - d. Sexual – to lust perversely
3. If we allow it, desire overtakes us regardless of the consequences. Seek after Gal. 5:22-23.

C. The pride of life – Prov. 12:17-21, 16:17-20

1. Pride – focus on our personal accomplishments
2. Position – desire to climb the ladder regardless of who gets hurt
3. Status desiring title and recognition

➤ Suggested Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Overcoming Temptation

Consider This:

It is said that 'pride goes before a fall.' This is a true statement. We must be careful how we arrive in a 'position' or how much we regard status. Did we work and earn our advancement with humility and thankfulness? Or did we get there stepping on others? Remember the fall of the prideful is great! In Gal. 5:16 we are commanded to walk in the Spirit; we see if we do that we will express the Fruit of the Spirit (v 22-25). We are told to work out our salvation (Phil. 2:12). II Thess. 3 instructs us concerning work and behavior. If we stay out of the business of others, avoiding greed and covetousness, paying attention to our own walk, we will be blest and have peace.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The Race of Faith

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Outline

- I. The race is individual.
 - A. Our race is witnessed.
 1. Not by deceased spectators
 2. By lives of those before us who, looking forward to the Promise, have overcome the challenges of life.
 - B. Not a competition
 1. Do not look at others.
 2. Trust God wholeheartedly.
- II. Keep focused.
 - A. We must discard anything that hinders our progress.
 - B. Run the race with discipline.
 1. Practice self-denial and self-control.
 2. Embrace God's discipline.
 3. Study of the Word daily.

The Race of Faith

Consider This:

We must understand that God has a plan specifically for each individual. Salvation comes only through the Cross. It does not come from man or from works, but only through the Cross. Jesus will carry us through the race, beginning to end, if we will allow Him to do so.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- III. The race of faith is a pathway.
 - A. It goes through life's race.
 - 1. Not over the challenges and obstacles.
 - 2. Not around them...
 - B. Detours are not allowed.
 - 1. Detours cause delays.
 - 2. Detours cause us to weaken.
- IV. Running for the prize.
 - A. Press toward the mark – Phil. 3:13-17.
 - 1. The spiritual target of the high calling – I Cor. 1:17-19.
 - 2. Mature in the image of Christ – I Cor. 2:1-5.
 - B. Continue in faith and be immovable.
 - 1. Serve as you run.
 - 2. Minister in season and out.
 - a. Convenient or not
 - b. Comfortable or not
- V. The Victory is in the Cross.
 - A. It is not for personal gain.
 - 1. Motives for personal gain are an enemy to the Cross.
 - 2. Evil motives lead to loss.
 - B. Rejoice in all things.
 - 1. Pray and yield control to God.
 - 2. Be content with your soul and spirit.

The Race of Faith

Consider This:

Staying focused is a key in anything we do. It is accomplished with discipline realizing that the race of faith does present trials and challenges. Just as we need to nourish our physical body with food and drink, we must also have a daily diet of the 'Word'. We must not procrastinate as procrastination soon will become a detour that beckons us.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- VI. The author and finisher, Jesus – Heb. 12:1-4
 - A. Jesus is the source – Col. 1:16-19.
 - 1. Alpha (the beginning)
 - 2. Before all things – preexistent
 - B. Jesus is the Finisher – Col. 1:20-23.
 - 1. Omega (the end)
 - 2. Reconciling all things to Himself through the Blood of His Cross
 - C. Jesus will never leave us or forsake us – Heb. 13:5-6.
 - 1. This is a personal promise.
 - 2. The Lord is our helper in all things.
 - D. We are called to service.
 - 1. Be grounded and settled in “the faith.”
 - 2. Be an example to others.
 - Minister the Word; it does not change.
 - Need to use spiritual discernment so you do not get side tracked following ungodly signs and prophetic words.
 - Faith will lead us in a godly lifestyle.
 - We cannot serve God and Legalism – it is one or the other.

The Race of Faith

Consider This:

If we have faith in God, believing in the Cross of Jesus, we have eternal life with Him. The race of faith is ongoing for each of us as long as we are in our earth suits. We look forward to hearing “Well done good and faithful servant,” as God welcomes us home.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The Three Courts

Scripture: I Corinthians 4:1-5

¹Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. ⁴For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. ⁵Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Outline

- I. The court of public opinion
 - A. Judging one another – Mat. 7:1-5
 - 1. It is not our job.
 - 2. Do not react and lose focus.
 - 3. Be faithful servants.
 - B. Do not repeat what you may know about others – Prov. 6:16-19.
 - 1. Do not speculate about motives.
 - 2. We are not qualified to judge others.
 - 3. We should weed our own garden, so to speak.
 - It is a dangerous thing to judge others.
 - We must realize when we judge others, we judge ourselves.

The Three Courts

Consider This:

The law of sowing and reaping tells us that what 'we sow we shall also reap.' As we think about this remember the law of sowing and reaping covers every area of our lives (good, bad, ugly). So, what kind of a crop do we want? Many times we relate sowing and reaping to money – however money is a very small part of it.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. The court of judging self
 - A. We do not judge ourselves.
 - 1. If we do, it provides an opportunity for excuse, and there is no excuse – Rom. 1:16-20.
 - 2. If we do, it gives opportunity for condemnation.
 - B. We need to examine ourselves honestly – Gal. 6:3-10.
 - 1. Motives
 - 2. Commission (things we do that we should not do)
 - 3. Omission (things we do not do that we should do)
 - III. The court of the Lord
 - A. Justification comes from the Lord – Mat. 10:24-32.
 - 1. That which is covered will be uncovered.
 - 2. Hidden things will be revealed.
 - B. The timing is God's – I Cor. 4:4-6.
 - 1. There is a time for everything.
 - 2. God is the judge of all – Heb. 12:22-29.
 - 3. God's judgement is righteous and true – Jn. 5:26-34, Ps. 19:9.
- If we will examine our own failings according to the Word of God, we will not have time to examine the failings of others.

The Three Courts

Consider This:

Sometimes we would like to 'speculate' that what we do or say is not as bad as what others do. This is operating in tolerance and relative truth for our speech and actions. We are not qualified to judge ourselves, much less others. Sometimes we feel our conscience will acquit us and find us not guilty. We must give careful consideration to our walk in the Lord – so it is best to mind our own business and leave others to the Lord. The Lord will never leave us or forsake us. The Word of God is trustworthy. God is not a man that He should lie. We can expect the Lord to care for us, protect us, and to bring us to an expected end. We need to believe God's Word and live a life that pleases God. Always give God's Word priority.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: Growing in Grace

Scripture: Hebrews 4:13-16

¹³Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Outline

- I. Favor and force of grace
 - A. Grace is a favor – a noun.
 1. Undeserved kindness
 2. Freely given
 3. Boundless grace – Rom. 5:18-21
 - B. Grace is also a force – a verb (continuous action).
 1. Power through divine influence
 2. Inspires ongoing excellence
 3. Grace rules and reigns by the Word of God.
 - C. Jesus is our High Priest – divine power.
 1. The priesthood from men is frail.
 2. Priesthood pointed to Christ.
 3. Sacrifices offered for sin pointed to Christ.

Growing in Grace

Consider This:

We think about grace as a gift and it is. However, grace is a force of action to operate in the power of God's Word. Grace is alive, moving, and inspiring us. It is not a package (singular). Favor is wonderful, and thank God for it, but when it moves us into the Word and with power, it is awesome.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. Shared grace – common to all – Isa. 55:7-11, Ps. 111:2-4
 - A. God's evidence is clearly seen.
 - 1. He is seen in creation.
 - 2. Man must know God is in creation.
 - B. People know deep within that God exists.
 - 1. Universal knowledge of God – Rom. 1:17-22
 - 2. Man must either accept or reject God's existence.
 - C. God's Word is given to benefit man.
 - III. Saving grace – Eph. 2:5-9
 - A. Saved by God's grace not by our works – Rom. 11:5-6.
 - 1. Salvation given by undeserved kindness.
 - 2. Salvation is realized in God's realm.
 - B. Redemption is through His Blood – Eph. 1:3-9.
 - 1. Reconciling Jesus's death on the Cross.
 - 2. God alone forgives through the Cross and Blood of Jesus.
 - C. The resurrection of Jesus is our resurrection.
 - 1. We cannot help ourselves.
 - 2. The Cross of Calvary is truly our foundation.
- Our works cannot be mixed with Grace for Salvation. It is God's Grace and nothing of our works, as works will never produce Grace.

Growing in Grace

Consider This:

Sometimes we think of grace as being given to us for salvation, not considering that God has given a measure of grace to all. The problem is many do not receive His grace and do not respond to the Lord. God is no respecter of persons, His existence is evident to mankind and His grace is available to all.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- IV. Sanctifying and separating grace – Jn. 17:14-19
 - A. We are sanctified by His Word.
 - 1. The Work of the Holy Spirit – Jn. 16:5-11
 - a. Ministers convictions.
 - b. Ministers availability of righteousness.
 - 2. Understanding is made possible by the Holy Spirit – Jn. 15:25-27.
 - a. Helper
 - b. Guide
 - c. Counselor/Advocate
 - B. Sanctification separates us from the world unto God – Jn. 16:13-16, 17:12-21.
 - 1. As we lift Jesus up in our lives
 - a. Carnal life loses importance.
 - b. Spiritual life becomes important.
 - 2. Sanctification works inside of us.
 - a. Outward change is a progression and is ongoing.
 - b. We begin to display Christ-like qualities.
- We have been given His Word to live by.
- The spirit realm of the world is ruled by Satan.
- We can only be the “Light” through the Cross.

Growing in Grace

Consider This:

As we accept God's Grace in salvation, we move to separation and sanctification. We must allow the Holy Spirit to lead us from our humanity and to put on Jesus. We must strip off the old and put on the new. Until we do this, progress is not possible. Moses led the people out of Egypt and Abraham followed God from his familiar home to a new place.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- V. Serving Grace – Jn. 3:16,17
 - A. Jesus came to save and to serve – Phil. 2:1-9
 - 1. We are to consider Jesus.
 - a. Do not look for fame.
 - b. Serve obediently and willingly – Isa. 1:16-19.
 - 2. Walk worthy of the calling – Eph. 4:1-12.
 - a. We are part of one body, one Spirit.
 - b. Keep unity and peace.
 - c. Serve others.
 - 3. Become mature in Christ – Eph. 4:13-16.
 - a. Grow out of childhood.
 - b. Everyone does their share.
 - c. Promotes fellowship and edifies Christ.
 - B. Submission and Authority – Mat. 8:9-10
 - 1. We are must submit to authority before we lead in authority.
 - a. Must know how to kneel to authority.
 - b. Requires surrendering our own will and choice.
 - 2. Leading with authority involves responsibility – I Cor. 15:23-28.
 - a. Authority comes from God – Jn. 5:24-30.
 - b. Lead in God's authority.
 - c. Accept the responsibility – Titus 2:11-15.

Growing in Grace

Consider This:

So what is this all about – sharing, saving, separating and sanctifying grace? It is all about being fit to serve. As we move into service, many times we are called to lead. Submission to the Lord is of prime importance. If we cannot submit, we need to sit! Operating in authority carries responsibility. A good leader knows how to submit and release his will to God's will. Leading is not driving – leading is love in action regardless of who needs help. It is necessary to lay down oneself and put on Christ.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- VI. Standing grace – II Cor. 12:7-10
 - A. Strengthening and enabling grace
 - 1. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness.
 - 2. As we humble ourselves, God's power rests upon us.
 - 3. God's power works through us.
 - B. Stand clothed in God's Armor – Eph. 6:10-13.
 - 1. Whole armor – our resource – Eph. 6:13-17
 - a. Truth
 - b. Peace
 - c. Faith
 - d. Salvation
 - 2. Continuous prayer – Eph. 6:18-20
 - a. Perseverance
 - b. Patience
 - C. Stir up the Gift – II Tim. 1:6-7.
 - 1. Boldly
 - 2. Without fear
 - D. Study the Word – II Tim. 2:15-16.
 - 1. Workman – service
 - 2. Not ashamed
- VII. God is gracious – I Pet. 2:1-3.
 - A. Desire first the sincere milk of the Word, then the meat.
 - B. A Living Stone – chosen of God – I Pet. 2:4-6.

Growing in Grace

Consider This:

We are to put on the whole armor of God and keep it on. Keep God's armor functioning by studying His Word. Be faithful, truthful, peaceful, and humble. Perseverance comes with prayer, patience, and preparation. Stir up the fire of the Holy Spirit. Always be ready to answer God's call. We must drink the milk of the Word before we can digest the meat. It is not always comfortable or convenient.

Notes:

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: The Importance of Intercession

Scripture: Daniel 9:4-19

³And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: ⁴And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; ⁵We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: ⁶Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. ...

Please continue reading verses 7 – 19

Outline

- I. Jesus interceded during His Earthly ministry.
 - A. For Jerusalem – Lk. 19:41-46
 - B. For disciples like Simon Peter – Lk. 22:31-32
 - C. For enemies – Lk. 23:33-34
- II. Present ministry of Christ – interceding for us – Rom. 8:32-37.
 - A. An advocate with the Father
 1. Our defense – I Jn. 2:1,2
 2. Our ongoing relationship with God Rom. 8:1-2, 14
 - B. His intercession is necessary – Isa. 53:10-12.
 1. He, Jesus, gave Himself completely.
 2. He obtained righteousness for us.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- III. Holy Spirit in intercession
 - A. Spirit Himself intercedes – Rom. 8:26-28
 - 1. For God’s purpose and will
 - 2. We do not know how to pray.
 - B. Holy Spirit intercedes in perfect unity with God.
 - 1. Intercedes within us
 - 2. Moves us onward and upward
- IV. Intercession and the believer
 - A. Intercession in the Old Testament – I Chron. 29:11-20 (David), II Chron. 6:14-42 (Solomon), Job 1:5
 - 1. Prophets – I Ki. 18 (focus on 18:41-45), Joel 1:13-14, 2:15-21
 - 2. Priests – Ezra 9:4-15
 - B. Intercession in the New Testament
 - 1. For the church – Acts 13:2-4, Rom. 1:8-10
 - 2. For others – Acts 12:5-12, Col. 1:3-14
 - a. The sick – James 5:14-15
 - b. One another – James 5:16-20
 - c. Individuals
 - d. Families
 - 3. For the nation
 - 4. For those over us – I Tim. 2:1-8
 - a. Government and Leaders
 - b. Teachers and Employers

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- V. Purpose of intercession
 - A. To restore
 - 1. Spiritual growth
 - 2. Power of Holy Spirit
 - B. To rescue/deliver
 - 1. To withhold judgment
 - 2. To produce Fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22,23
 - C. Supplication – such as Dan. 9 and Acts 1:12-15
 - 1. Entreat humbly
 - 2. Seek mercy and compassion – Jude v20-25
- VI. Contending for the Faith
 - A. Requires focused effort
 - 1. Compelled by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. To guard the Truth of the Word
 - 3. Do not let unbelief slip in.
 - B. Chart our course according to the Spirit.
 - 1. We must build ourselves up.
 - 2. Separate ourselves unto the Truth.
 - 3. Continuously looking to the Cross.
 - C. Always thanking God
 - 1. Make requests with joy.
 - 2. Be confident of God's promises.
 - 3. Be discerning of the atmosphere around us.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Bonus Sermon: Set in Series for Study and Teaching

The title of the series: “The Battleground, The Holy Ground, or the Balcony”, reviews three major positions which believers experience. We all have these experiences as we sojourn here on earth. Let us examine these three positions.

The Battleground. It is our daily walk; the experiences and challenges we have including victories, disappointments, etc. Every believer is on the battleground daily. It is true that Jesus has won the battle and victory is ours, but we must walk in the Word to enjoy it. The battleground is not just for the five-fold minister, but for the teacher, lawyer, merchant; and as the saying goes ‘doctors, lawyers, Indian Chiefs.’ It does not matter where we live, man or woman, boy or girl, rich or poor. The battleground is our individual walk, though we all need corporate prayer to help us.

The Holy Ground. It keeps us filled with the Word and suited in God’s Armor. It is our protection so we can withstand the assaults of the enemy as we sojourn on the battleground. The Holy Ground is the time we spend alone with God in prayer and meditation. It is the time we review our day and examine ourselves. We may need to repent for areas of omission, commission, reaction, words, etc. We also give thanks for the success and guidance of the Lord. The Holy ground is where we speak our petitions, listen for His Voice, and rest in Him with thanksgiving and praise.
I Pet 5:6-10

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion,

Bonus Sermon

walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. ¹⁰But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

The Balcony is the position we find ourselves in when we neglect the Holy Ground. If we go from day to day, from “battle to battle”, without spending alone time with God, we become vulnerable to the enemy. I Pet. 5:8 says the adversary goes about seeking whom he may devour. The key is “may.” The enemy can only devour us if we allow it by not having a daily diet of the Word. The balcony takes us on a downward spiral until we must make a choice to repent and return to the Holy Ground. Sometimes we end up on the balcony due to pride, neglect, ignorance, etc.

We, as humans, work physically and mentally and are active in the natural realm. We must take in food and water daily. We need time to rest. This is a visual example of the spiritual Battleground, Holy Ground, and the Balcony. If we work without food, water, or rest it will lead us to illness and eventually death. The same is true in the spirit realm. We must live up to our potential for God (the battleground), spend time with God (the Holy Ground), and avoid the Balcony. In addition, we must fellowship with those who are like-minded. Read Heb. 10:22-25 “...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...”

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: Battleground, Holy Ground, or Balcony, Part 1

Scripture: II Samuel 11:1,2

¹And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. ²And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

Outline

- I. Where was David? II Sam. 11:1
 - A. He stayed at Jerusalem.
 1. He sent his army to battle.
 2. He did not lead them.
 - B. David vacated his duty to lead II Sam. 11:2.
 1. He viewed his kingdom from the roof of his house.
 - a. He put himself in a vulnerable position.
 - b. David saw a beautiful woman bathing.
 2. David left God's Divine Restraint.
 - a. Temptation was attractive.
 - b. David pursued the temptation.
- Kings go forth to battle...he should have been leading his army.
- David's army was victorious, yet he still stayed at Jerusalem.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. David sent for Bathsheba – II Sam. 11:3-4.
 - A. She is the wife of Uriah.
 - 1. Uriah is one of David's mighty men.
 - 2. The messenger sent to bring Bathsheba to David.
 - B. David laid with Bathsheba.
 - 1. This is an act of grave immorality.
 - 2. Bathsheba follows the ceremonial act of purification and returns to her house.

- III. Bathsheba conceives and is with child – II Sam. 11:5.
 - A. She sends for David.
 - 1. Her penalty could be death.
 - 2. David has sinned against God – Ps. 51:4.
 - B. David does not repent immediately.
 - 1. If David had repented God would have forgiven him, as is God's Nature.
 - 2. Forgiveness comes only with true repentance.

- All sin is against God, however all sin has consequences and leaves a residue.

- David's sin affected his family, Uriah, Bathsheba, their families, and the Nation of Israel for generations to come.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: Battleground, Holy Ground, or Balcony, Part 2

Scripture: II Samuel 11:6-8

⁶And David sent to Joab, saying, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded of him how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered. ⁸And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess of meat from the king.

Outline

- I. David plans to cover his sin.
 - A. Deception and manipulation always leads to a slippery slope.
 1. David sends for Uriah, Bathsheba's husband – (v6,7).
 2. David begins a bigger circle of involving others in his sin.
 - B. The cover up – Plan A
 1. David tells Uriah to go home and rest. Why? Take some time off – (v8)
 2. Uriah would be home with Bathsheba and sleep with her.
 - David's reaction is of his "carnal nature."
 - He yields to suggestions from the enemy.
 - Our mind is the battleground between God's will and Satan's deception.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

- II. The cover up “Plan A” does not work – II Sam. 11:9-11.
 - A. Uriah does not go home – (v 9-10).
 - 1. Why does he sleep at the King’s door? – (v 11)
 - 2. He will not go home because his troops are sleeping in the fields.
 - B. Further progression of manipulation and deception – “Plan B”
 - 1. David has Uriah stay at Jerusalem.
 - 2. David calls Uriah to join him and eat and drink. Uriah (even drunk) still does not go home.
 - C. “Plan C” – David arranges Uriah’s death.
 - 1. David writes a letter to Joab (general of David’s troops) to place Uriah on the front line.
 - 2. Uriah carries the letter to Joab.
 - D. David marries Bathsheba.
 - 1. Bathsheba mourns Uriah’s death.
 - 2. David then takes her as his wife.
- Uriah did not know what the letter contained.
- Joab placed Uriah at the front of the battle.
- Uriah is killed – the sin has become cold-blooded murder.

Seeds for Sermons – Book 1

Sermon: Battleground, Holy Ground, or Balcony, Part 3

Scripture: II Samuel 12:1-6

¹And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. ²The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: ³But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. ⁴And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. ⁵And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: ⁶And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

Outline

- I. The reckoning is coming.
 - A. God sends the Prophet Nathan to David.
 - B. That which was covered was uncovered; that which was hidden was revealed.
 - Earlier, Nathan brought David news that, through his lineage, the Messiah would come. Read II Sam. 7.
 - How quickly things change. In II Sam. 12:9-12 – Nathan brings the news that “*the sword shall not depart from thine house*”. David had sinned against God. See Ps. 51:3-4.
 - The penalties affected many people, especially David's family. The father's sins move on to future generations.

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- II. David Truly Repents – Ps. 51
 - A. David tells Nathan *“I have sinned against the LORD”* – II Sam. 12:13.
 - 1. David realizes the injury done to God.
 - 2. God has already forgiven David’s sin, but this does not relieve the penalty for the sin.
 - 3. Confession follows conviction and brings God’s compassion – Ps. 51:1-3.
 - 4. Communion with God is restored.
 - B. Penalty is passed – II Sam. 12:10-12.
 - 1. David sinned secretly, but God revealed it openly.
 - 2. The penalty was fulfilled with the murder of David’s son Amnon – II Sam. 13:28-31.
 - 3. Absalom’s rebellion and death follows – II Sam. 18:14-15.
 - 4. Also, the baby of Bathsheba, Uriah’s wife, dies.
- Death and destruction follows David’s family.
- Murder/Rape
- Rebellion/Deception
- Evil produces evil

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Bonus Sermon: Balcony Examples for Further Study

- Abraham – losing faith. He said his wife, Sarah, was his sister. God intervened avoiding certain disaster. – Gen. 20.
- Esau – sold Jacob his birthright for a meal and paid for it for a lifetime – Gen. 25. Jacob deceived his brother and, in turn, reaped deception – Gen. 27.
- Moses – in his frustration he disobeyed God and struck “The Rock” twice, when he was told to “speak to The Rock.” – Num. 20:11 Moses was still God’s man, but he never entered the Promised Land – Deut. 32.
- Samson – followed his carnal nature, lost his strength, and was blind; however, God still used him – Judg. 16.
- Elijah – a mighty prophet of God gave into fear. He ran from Queen Jezebel and ended up in a cave. His mantle passed to Elisha – I Ki. 19.
- Jonah – being angry at Nineveh, disobeyed God and had a “whale” of a balcony experience – Jonah 1.
- Peter – denied Jesus 3 times. He repented and wept – Mat. 26.
- Judas – betrayed Jesus and overcome by guilt and shame, he committed suicide – Mat. 27.
- Ananias and Sapphira – lied to the Holy Spirit and suffered sudden death – Acts 5.

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Have You Received Jesus?

Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? If you have not accepted Him, please realize that Scripture tells us *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23).

I Jn. 5:13 gives an example to base our faith. *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”*

What if you are just not sure? Rom. 10:9-10 gives you the Scripture for becoming born-again. *“That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto Salvation.”* Take some time to consider this very carefully. Ask Jesus to come into your heart so that you will know the power of His Salvation and make your statement of faith today.

If you do not know what to say, consider this simple prayer.

“Lord, I know that I need a savior. I believe that Jesus died on the Cross for my sins and God raised Him from the dead. I ask to be forgiven and for Jesus to come into my heart and be the Lord of my life. I believe now by faith that God has heard my prayer and I am born-again.”

If you have prayed this prayer, accept by faith that your sins have been forgiven. It is important to tell someone you decided to accept the Lord. Also, our recommendation is for you join a local church with like-minded people. Then go to the next step – water baptism (see Rom. 6)

Have You Received Jesus?

Once you become born-again, it is your responsibility to renew your mind with the Word of God. Rom. 12:1-2 tells us that transformation of the mind can only take place in this temporal world by the Word of God. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”*

May God grant you knowledge, understanding, and wisdom in all of His ways.

In Christ,

Dr. Verda Thompson

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