LEAD WHERE YOU ARE

SERMON OUTLINES
Lead Where You Are is a 7-day journey that calls leaders to reset their Bible engagement practices and to share their commitment to God’s Word with others.

NOTE TO THE PASTOR
These sermon outlines are intended to assist you in sharing your own struggles and victories with Bible engagement, and to invite your congregation to join you in a commitment to engage with God’s Word on a daily basis.

But don’t stop here! Your journey continues at: UncoverLeaders.com

There you will discover:
• Bible engagement resources
• Best practices
• Tools to make a difference

All Scripture quotations in this publication are from the Contemporary English Version

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SERMON OUTLINE #1

WHAT’S TRUE ABOUT YOU?
MATTHEW 3:13—4:12

KEY THOUGHT
We can affirm our identity with the Word of God.

OVERVIEW
In this encounter, Jesus faced temptation. His response is an example for us as believers. Jesus did not use his divine prerogatives to resist Satan, but the power of God’s Word that is available to every Christ-follower. Matthew recorded this instance as an example for us to follow when we are tempted and tested in life.

SERMON OUTLINE
1. Opening Story: Pastor, share about a time when you felt that Satan or life’s circumstances were causing you to seriously question your identity in Christ (i.e., your worth, value, or significance).

2. God’s words affirmed who Jesus is
   a. “This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him.” (Matthew 3:17)
   b. God’s Word affirms who we are in Christ; i.e., what’s true about you!

3. Satan questioned Christ’s identity and the Word of God
   a. “If you are God’s Son ...” (Matthew 4:3,6)
   b. Satan will question your identity in Christ

4. Jesus engaged and reaffirmed God’s Word
   a. “The Scriptures say ...” (or, God has said...) (Matthew 4:4,7,10)
   b. We must reaffirm what God’s Word says about us
5. **Insight: The scripts vs. the Scriptures** – the Enemy of our souls loves to bring doubt and discouragement into our lives in the form of lies. These negative thoughts can become so frequent that they play out like scripts. A part of following Christ, however, is the practice of renewing our minds and our thoughts with God’s truth – the Scriptures. For example:

   a. When the script in your mind says, “You are not accepted by God” or “You are rejected” remember the Scriptures that say you are accepted by God.
      i. I am God’s child (John 1:12)
      ii. I am a friend of Christ (John 15:15)

   b. When the script in your mind says, “You should be worried or insecure” remember the Scriptures that say you are secure through God.
      i. I cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:31-39)
      ii. My life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:1-4)

   c. When the script in your mind says, “You should feel insignificant” remember the Scriptures that say you are significant.
      i. I have been chosen by God to bear fruit (John 15:16)
      ii. I am God’s workmanship created to do good works (Ephesians 2:10)

6. **Continued Story:** Pastor, continue your story here and share how you applied the truth of God’s Word to resist the discouragement you faced.

7. **As a result, Satan pulled back**
   a. “Then the devil left Jesus, and angels came to help him...” (Matthew 4:11)

**CHALLENGE**

Pray for your friends and family who feel under the attack of the Enemy or who are facing discouragement. Review passages of Scripture you can use to reaffirm your identity as a child of God. Write down a list of affirming verses and keep them in your Bible.
KEY THOUGHT
The call of Christ is a call to follow Him in intimacy, humility, serenity, and loyalty.

OVERVIEW
After they had numerous chances to observe the teaching and the powerful ministry of Christ, the disciples were asked an important couple of questions: (1) “What do people say about the Son of Man?” (v 13) and (2) “Who do you say I am?” (v 15) This was an opportunity, perhaps their first one, for the followers of Christ to proclaim their conviction and belief. Of course, Peter spoke up and said, “You are the Messiah...”

In many ways, Peter’s response seemed to be the moment in Jesus’ ministry or the moment when someone finally understood why he had come to earth. This led to Christ disclosing even more inside information to his disciples about his impending suffering and death. Peter rebutted, telling Jesus that there would be nothing of the sort of sufferings he predicted. At this strategic moment, Jesus clearly laid out to his disciples exactly what the call of Christ involved, including the fact that leadership would be characterized by faithful following.

SERMON OUTLINE
1. Opening Story: Pastor, share about a time when you misunderstood or underestimated what it meant to follow Christ. Create a sense of need in your listeners by sharing a time when you personally needed to better understand what it meant to follow Christ and his call.

2. Christ’s call is a call to intimacy
   a. “If any of you want to be my followers ...” (Matthew 16:24)
   b. Insight: the call to Christ is the call to follow him, to come closer to him. Peter seemed to have his own ideas about what Christ desired. Sometimes, so do we. Jesus corrected those misconceptions.
LEADING, THE FOLLOWING WAY
MATTHEW 16:13-28

3. Christ’s call is a call to humility
   a. “You must forget about yourself ...” (Matthew 16:24)
   b. **Insight:** the call of Christ is not to self-fulfillment, but to self-denial and self-surrender.

4. Christ’s call is a call to serenity
   a. “You must take up your cross ...” (Matthew 16:24)
   b. **Insight:** Christ had a cross to bear and he tells us to expect the same. Our “crosses” represent not only the challenges, struggles and hardships God allows in our lives, but also the attitudes we maintain amid those struggles. Instead of letting our “crosses” take us down, we must take them up and move forward in Christ.

5. Christ’s call is a call to loyalty
   a. “... and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)
   b. **Insight:** Peter had his own ideas about what following Christ would look like and require. It appeared that he wanted a certain kind of Jesus, in other words one of his own wish or design. Perhaps Peter wanted more of a Christ who would bring him comfort, rather than one who would allow him to face challenges. Despite this, Jesus laid out in no uncertain terms that obedience involved following—following with the utmost loyalty.

**CHALLENGE**
Pray for your friends and family who are dealing with various challenges in their lives. Encourage them to view their challenges as opportunities to display their intimacy, humility, serenity, and loyalty to Christ. Meditate on the central call of Christ that says, “If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find it. What will you gain, if you own the whole world but destroy yourself? What would you give to get back your soul?” (Matthew 16:24b-26).
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