

A Life That Triumphs Over Evil

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **July 21, 2024**



We honor the life of Miss Betty Jackson, who graduated to Heaven last week, as we focus on our serious responsibility to take our faith and address what’s happening in our world. As Christ-followers, we are running a race, and Miss Betty has placed the baton into our hands. One day Jesus will ask how we have done with that assignment. What a privilege it is to have godly people like Miss Betty join us on our journey through these temporary seasons of our lives. We do not want to take them for granted. Instead, we should celebrate them, seek their counsel, and learn from their example. It’s important to make the effort to encourage and strengthen one another because we are living in a season of tremendous turmoil, and when the Church fails, broad groups of humanity suffer. When a biblical worldview collapses, vast darkness results. There is no protector or source that can save us, except for Almighty God. The Church of Jesus Christ in the earth—when it is healthy, strong, vibrant, and alive—withstands evil and provides a lighted pathway for a life that triumphs over evil. The question is this: What will be said of the Church in *our* generation?

“First they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”
— Martin Niemöller

1. If the Church in the world fails, people suffer. What are some ways Christians can triumph and bring life, hope, and transformation to the world?

I. A SHORT COURSE IN CONFRONTING EVIL

Matthew 4:1–4 ¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

2. How would you encourage someone you know is being tempted by Satan to believe they are “less than” what God says of them?

A. Recognize the Reality of Evil & Temptation

Matthew 6:13 *‘And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’*

B. Prepare for Truth to Be Challenged

Mark 1:23–24 ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, ²⁴ “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

C. Warn the Unsuspecting

Matthew 15:12–14 ¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” ¹³ He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. ¹⁴ **Leave them;** they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.”

3. Share a time in your life when you felt you had to physically or mentally “leave” a place or ideology that was leading you in a wrong direction.

D. Expressions of the Power of God

Matthew 14:15–18 ¹⁵ *As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”* ¹⁶ *Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. **You give them something to eat.**”* ¹⁷ *“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.* ¹⁸ *“Bring them here to me,” he said.*

Revelation 12:11 *They (Believers on earth) overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*

4. Among your group, list some scriptures that can help you and others confront Satan’s attempts to challenge God’s Truth.

II. LESSONS FROM A PRACTITIONER (MY MOM)

Matthew 13:44 *“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.”*

A. Jesus

Matthew 14:28 *“**Lord, if it’s you,**” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”*

B. Tell the Truth

Matthew 8:10 *When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, “**I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.**”*

C. Prayer

Luke 6:12 *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying to God.***

D. Hospitality/People Matter

Luke 13:15–16 ¹⁵ *The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?”* ¹⁶ ***Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”***

5. We don’t earn our way into Heaven, but we shouldn’t have more calluses on our backsides than our hands and feet. In what ways can you motivate yourself and others to be a better practitioner of God’s Word?

6. Describe a time when you let pride keep you from inviting God into your situation. What was the outcome? What did you learn?

PRAYER

Let’s ask the Lord for an anointing upon our lives. We can trust Him to give us what we need, as we take the baton being passed to us and run with courage and strength:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your great love for us. Thank You that, in every generation, You call men and women for Yourself. Thank You that, in Your mercy, You bring people alongside us who give us glimpses of what Christ in us might be. We pray we would say yes to You in ways we've been previously reluctant, opening our hearts and lives to make new space for You. Forgive us for our arrogance in imagining there wasn't really anything significant left we needed to learn. Forgive us for our indifference, and for looking at a broken world and hoping someone else would respond. Today we raise our hands to say, “Here we are.” Grant us understanding hearts and eyes to see, with a new boldness and a reverence for You—a fear of God that's greater than any fear of man we might have. Holy Spirit, help us. We thank You for a harvest beyond anything we've seen or imagined so that, when our days are spent and our strength grows small, we are prepared to see You. In Jesus' name, amen.