

## Study Guide

This sermon is based on a sermon preached by John Bevere and his book, The Bait of Satan. If this message spoke to you, I strongly encourage you to read his book, and consider being a part of a small group that works thru the study in the book.

Monday: Read **Matt 24:10-13 - And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.** As you read that passage, ask yourself how many people you have come to hate thru the offenses that have come against you and against your friends? Ask God to show you any roots of bitterness that have taken root in your life as a result of those offenses. For each root of bitterness that He shows you, ask Him to help you cut that root and remove it from your life.

Tuesday: Read **Prov 18:19 - An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel,** and **2 Cor 10:3-5 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.** How have the offenses in your life caused you to shut yourself away from others? Have you expected your friends to take sides in your arguments? Ask God to show you that He's calling us to live differently, and to realize that we are called to use different weapons, and those weapons aren't nearly as concerned with lifting us up, as they are lifting Jesus up.

Wednesday: Read **Matt 18:21-22** and **Matt 18:23-35**. Do you consider yourself a forgiving person? Would Jesus? Who do you need to forgive? How do you think you will be free, if they no longer have power over you, because you are still hung up on hurts they have caused you? Ask God to help you get to the point that you can forgive others, and trust Him to hold them accountable for the wrongs they have done.

Thursday: Read **Prov 6:16-19 - There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.** Did you know there were things that God hated? Scripture says there are. Have you ever been guilty of any of those things? Confess those things before God, and thank Him for His forgiveness. Ask Him to help you realize how much He has done for you, and allow you to be forgiving and gracious towards others.

Friday: Read **Matt 5:44-48 - But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.** Do you pray for those who seem to be out to get you? That's a hard thing to do, but that's what Jesus tells us to do in the Sermon on the Mount. Ask God to give you His heart for those who always seem to be after you.

Saturday: Read **2 Tim 2:25-26** and **1 Peter 4:7-19**. Who do you need to gently instruct, to help them be set free from their captivity? Ask God to give you the wisdom of how to help them walk into the way of forgiving and serving others. Isn't it interesting how Peter, in talking about the end times calls us to be **clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.** Look at that passage and ask if that is a picture of our church? If not, ask God to help us to become His church.

If for your safety, or the safety of your loved ones, there is a door that needs to stay closed – you can still forgive. It is a process, sometimes a dreadfully slow one. But it starts with talking with God about forgiving them, even if it saying, “Lord, I don't want to forgive them, but I know you want me to. Help me to get to the place where I can, because I can only get there, if You take me there.”

