

SERMON STUDY GUIDE — August 2, 2026

OVERCOMING THE WARFARE ATTACHED TO YOUR HARVEST

Based on the message by Richie Seltzer

OVERVIEW

What do you do when the battle seems stronger the closer you get to God's purpose for your life?

In *Overcoming the Warfare Attached to Your Harvest*, Richie Seltzer teaches that spiritual warfare often intensifies around the promises, assignments, and harvest God has placed on our lives. Opposition does not necessarily mean we have stepped outside God's will. At times, the battle comes because we are moving toward the very place God has called us to go.

At Jesus' baptism, the Father declared, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Immediately afterward, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness, where the devil challenged His identity. Instead of performing to prove who He was, Jesus answered every temptation with the written Word of God. He knew what the Father had said, and He stood firmly on the truth.

Later, Jesus told His disciples that they were going to the other side of the sea. A violent storm arose along the way, but Jesus rested in the boat because He trusted the Father and knew where they were going. The storm could not cancel what Jesus had already spoken. After calming the storm, Jesus and His disciples reached the other side, where a man was delivered from demonic torment and sent to tell others what the Lord had done for him.

Richie reminds us that different battles may require different responses. Sometimes we overcome by declaring, "It is written." At other times, the greatest act of faith is to stop striving and rest in God's presence. In every circumstance, we must remember what God has said, trust His timing, and refuse to abandon the harvest because the journey becomes difficult.

The enemy may attack through fear, distraction, discouragement, condemnation, delay, or lies about our identity. However, believers do not have to return to the person they once were. Through Jesus Christ, we have received a new identity and a new life.

If you have drifted from the Lord or returned to old patterns, God's invitation remains open:

"You don't have to live like that anymore. It's not who you are. You can come home." — Richie Seltzer

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

Read → Respond → Reflect

Read each passage carefully before answering the Respond questions. Keep your Bible open and allow Scripture to answer the questions directly.

Then use the Reflect questions to wrestle with how God's Word applies to your everyday life. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where fear, distraction, striving, discouragement, or the lies of the enemy may be influencing your thoughts and decisions.

The goal is not simply to learn more about spiritual warfare. The goal is to recognize what God has spoken, stand firmly on His Word, rest in His strength, and remain faithful to the calling He has placed on your life.

This guide is designed for individual study, family discipleship, and Roads Groups.

SECTION 1 — KNOW WHAT GOD HAS SAID

Focus

Before Jesus began His public ministry, the Father declared His identity and His pleasure in Him. When the devil later challenged Jesus with the words, "If You are the Son of God," Jesus did not perform to prove His identity. He stood on the written Word. Believers must learn to recognize what God has said and refuse to allow the enemy or their circumstances to redefine them.

Read

Matthew 3:13–17; Matthew 4:1–11

Respond

1. What happened immediately after Jesus came up from the water?
2. How did the voice from heaven identify Jesus?
3. Who led Jesus into the wilderness?
4. How did the devil challenge Jesus' identity?
5. How did Jesus answer each temptation?

Reflect

- What truth does Scripture declare about who I am in Christ?
- What lie or accusation has caused me to question my identity or calling?
- What specific Scripture can I use to answer that lie?

Further Scripture Reading

Romans 8:14–17

SECTION 2 — REST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM

Focus

Jesus told His disciples that they were going to the other side. When a dangerous storm arose, the disciples feared they would die, but Jesus rested in the boat. His rest was not carelessness;

it demonstrated trust in the Father and confidence in what had already been spoken. Sometimes victory does not come through greater striving. Sometimes faith looks like resting in God before speaking peace to the storm.

Read

Mark 4:35–41

Respond

1. What did Jesus tell the disciples before they entered the boat?
2. What happened while they were crossing the sea?
3. What was Jesus doing during the storm?
4. What did the disciples ask Jesus when they woke Him?
5. What did Jesus say to the wind and the sea?
6. What did Jesus ask the disciples after calming the storm?

Reflect

- What storm currently feels as though it is challenging God's purpose for my life?
- Where am I striving to control an outcome instead of trusting God?
- What would it look like for me to rest in God's presence this week?

Further Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:6–9

SECTION 3 — KEEP THE HARVEST IN VIEW

Focus

The storm was not the disciples' destination. On the other side was a man who desperately needed freedom. After Jesus delivered him, the man received an assignment to tell others what the Lord had done. The resistance on the journey was connected to the harvest waiting on the other side. Keeping God's purpose in view helps us endure the pain, delays, and battles that come along the way.

Read

Mark 5:1–20

Respond

1. What condition was the man in when Jesus and the disciples arrived?
2. How had others attempted to restrain him?
3. What did Jesus command the unclean spirit to do?
4. How was the man described after Jesus delivered him?
5. What assignment did Jesus give him?
6. How did the people respond when he shared what Jesus had done?

Reflect

- What assignment or act of obedience may be waiting on the other side of my present difficulty?
- Has opposition caused me to lose sight of what God originally said?
- Who needs to hear what the Lord has done in my life?

Further Scripture Reading

Luke 10:1–3

SECTION 4 — RECOGNIZE THE BATTLE WITHOUT BELIEVING THE LIES

Focus

Spiritual warfare can appear through accusations, distraction, fear, condemnation, discouragement, and thoughts that contradict God's character. Before preaching to thousands of people, Richie experienced thoughts telling him that he was a failure as a husband, father, and evangelist. He recognized that these accusations did not sound like God. Believers must bring darkness into the light, reject condemnation, and allow God's truth to govern their minds.

Read

John 10:10; Romans 8:31–39

Respond

1. According to John 10:10, what does the thief come to do?
2. What does Jesus say He came to give?
3. What confidence can believers have when God is for them?
4. Who is able to bring a charge against God's chosen people?
5. What does Paul say can separate believers from the love of Christ?
6. How are believers described in the middle of hardship and opposition?

Reflect

- What recurring thought has produced fear, condemnation, or discouragement in me?
- Does that thought agree with God's character and His Word?
- What truth from Romans 8 directly answers the accusation I have been believing?

Further Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

SECTION 5 — COME HOME AND WALK IN YOUR NEW IDENTITY

Focus

In Richie's repeated dream, he found himself returning to the criminal lifestyle God had rescued him from. During the third dream, he recognized, "This is not who I am anymore," and chose to go home. Through Jesus Christ, believers are not defined by their former lives. When we drift or fall into old patterns, we do not have to remain there. God calls us to repent, remember who we are, and come home.

Read

Proverbs 26:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Luke 15:17–24

Respond

1. What comparison does Proverbs use for someone who returns to foolishness?
2. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, what is true of anyone who is in Christ?
3. What has passed away, and what has become new?
4. What realization caused the younger son to begin his journey home?
5. How did the father respond when he saw his son returning?
6. Why did the father say they should celebrate?

Reflect

- Is there an old behavior, mindset, or pattern that I have been tempted to return to?
- What does God's Word say is true of me because I am in Christ?
- What step would represent coming home to the Father in this season?

Further Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:1–10

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Spiritual warfare does not mean God has abandoned you. The presence of resistance does not automatically mean you have missed His will. At times, the battle becomes intense because there is a harvest, assignment, or act of obedience on the other side.

When the enemy challenges your identity, remember what the Father has spoken. You do not have to perform to prove who you are. Stand on the written Word of God and answer lies with truth.

When the storm becomes overwhelming, resist the temptation to strive in your own strength. Jesus rested because He trusted the Father and knew the storm could not cancel His destination. Rest in God's presence, receive His peace, and trust Him to lead you through.

When the journey is painful or delayed, keep the harvest in view. God may fulfill His promises differently than you expected, but you do not have to force open doors that He has not opened. Remain faithful, obey what He has placed before you, and trust His timing.

When accusations, distractions, or discouraging thoughts come, bring them into the light. Compare every thought with the character of God and the truth of Scripture. God is not against you. He is for you, and nothing can separate you from His love in Christ Jesus.

Finally, if you have drifted or returned to old patterns, remember that your past is not your identity. You are not required to remain in the place where you fell. Through the grace of Jesus Christ, you can repent, turn around, and walk in the new life He has given you.

You do not have to live like that anymore. It is not who you are. You can come home.