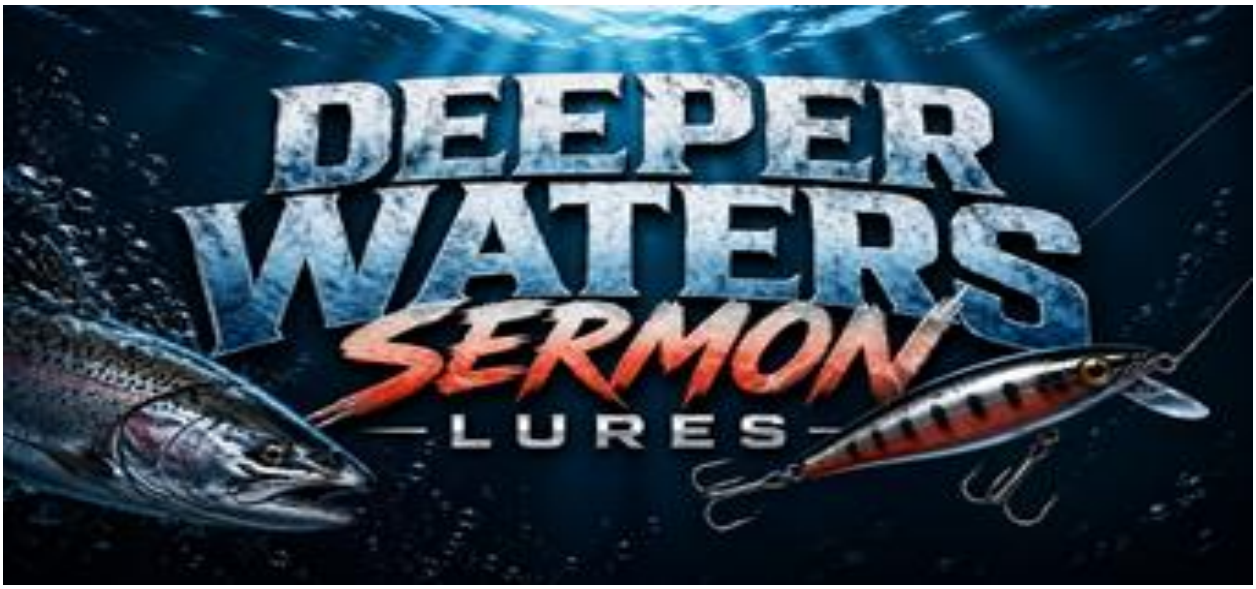



## KNOW IT!

We often imagine saints and heroes as larger-than-life figures, but Scripture shows that God works through ordinary, flawed people — including those we know well. The sermon emphasizes that while the world divides people into "good" and "bad," God sees us through grace. Simultaneously saints and sinners we are still capable of courage, kindness, and faith. As the sermon says, "ALL people are both Saints and sinners… through whom God works and through whom God extends his love and grace and mercy." On All Saints Sunday, we remember everyday people whose imperfect lives still reflected God's love and inspired ours. Jesus' Beatitudes in Matthew 5 flip our assumptions upside down, reminding us that God blesses the humble, the grieving, the merciful, and the peacemakers. The message closes with an invitation: you can choose to live out your identity as a saint — not by being perfect, but by letting God's grace shape your life and how you treat others.

## READ IT!

- **1 Samuel 16:1–13 — The Anointing of David** God chooses the overlooked youngest son, reminding us that divine calling often rests on ordinary, imperfect people. "The Lord does not see as mortals see…" fits the sermon's heart perfectly.
- **Luke 18:9–14 — The Pharisee and the Tax Collector** Jesus flips expectations again, showing that humility, honesty, and dependence on grace matter more than outward righteousness. It reinforces the "simultaneously saint and sinner" reality.
- **Acts 9:1–22 — The Calling of Saul/Paul** A persecutor becomes an apostle, mirroring the sermon's examples of flawed people becoming instruments of God's mercy and courage.

- **“The Road Not Taken” — Robert Frost** This poem highlights the quiet, everyday choices that shape a life — not dramatic heroism, but the simple courage of choosing a meaningful path. Its reflection on ordinary decisions mirrors the sermon’s call to embrace significance over mediocrity and to let God’s grace shape who we become.
- **“The Gift of the Magi” — O. Henry** A story of two ordinary people whose imperfect lives are transformed by self-giving love. Their humble sacrifices echo the Beatitudes’ upside-down wisdom and the sermon’s reminder that saints are often everyday people whose kindness reveals God’s heart.
- **“The Man in the Water” — Roger Rosenblatt** This reflection on an anonymous man who gave his life to save others during the Air Florida crash captures the idea of an “unsung hero.” It resonates deeply with the sermon’s theme that true sainthood often appears in ordinary people whose courage and compassion emerge in unexpected moments.

## WATCH IT!

- ***The Lord of the Rings* (Film Trilogy)** Ordinary hobbits — small, overlooked, imperfect — become the central agents of courage, sacrifice, and hope. Their quiet heroism mirrors the sermon’s message that God often works through those the world underestimates.
- ***The Chosen* (TV Series)** This series highlights how Jesus calls deeply imperfect people — tax collectors, zealots, doubters — and shapes them into instruments of grace. It visually reinforces the sermon’s theme that saints are ordinary people transformed by God’s love.
- **“The Book of James” — Francis Chan (RightNow Media)** James emphasizes living out faith through everyday actions — mercy, humility, perseverance, and care for others. It aligns perfectly with the sermon’s call to let grace shape how we treat one another and to recognize that God works through ordinary people who choose compassion and righteousness.

## LIVE IT!

- **Practice “Grace First” Thinking in Daily Interactions** Before responding to someone — a coworker, friend, family member, or stranger — pause and remember the sermon’s truth that *“ALL people are both Saints and sinners… through whom God works and through whom God extends his love and grace and mercy.”* This simple mental shift helps you respond with patience, mercy, and humility rather than judgment or frustration.
- **Choose One Small Act of Unsung Heroism Each Week** The sermon celebrates everyday saints whose quiet faithfulness shaped others. Pick one intentional act each week: encourage someone who’s struggling, help a neighbor, show kindness to someone overlooked, or offer forgiveness where it’s needed. These small choices embody the Beatitudes’ upside-down vision of blessing.