

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - April 29, 2021

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Title: "Hoodwinked in the Last Days"

Scripture Reference: Matthew 24:4

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you."

I. Introduction

A. I'm quite sure that this week's title captured your attention and I want to make sure that all who will view this material, will be absolutely clear about the meaning of the expression "***Hoodwinked.***" The word **Hoodwink** is a verb and it means "**to deceive or trick someone.**" With that being said, let's launch into our lesson.

B. For those who have a listening hear to the Spirit of God, it is clear that we are living in the last days before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to Rapture His Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Comment: I firmly believe in a premillennial dispensational view of the Scriptures. This means that Jesus will return to Rapture believers in Him during this dispensation or the Age of Grace, and this occurs **before** the Seven Year period known as the Tribulation Period.

C. As I stated earlier, we are living in the last days and according to Bible Prophecy, things are only going to get more intense as the days pass.

D. In the New Testament, Jesus, Paul, and Peter all prophesied that society as a whole would be deceived on a massive scale.

Question: Can you identify any massive scale deceptions that have taken place over the last decade or two, or even most recently?

E. Jesus' disciples had specifically asked Him, "... What shall be

the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?" (Matt. 24:3)

F. In response to that specific question, Jesus identified a list of exact signs that would indicate the end of the age and His imminent return.

G. Jesus gave many signs, but the first sign he told them about contained a clear warning of a wide-scale deception that would emerge in the last part of the last days - and the need for people to prepare and guard against it. Jesus said, "... **Take heed that no man deceive you.**" (Matt. 24:4)

Comments:

- 1) Matthew Chapters 24 and 25 are commonly referred to as the **Olivet Discourse**.
- 2) Matthew 24:1-4 forms Jesus' last major discourse (i.e., spoken communication or discussion ((and in this case our Lord's teaching)) and his most prophetic and apocalyptic message of the coming of the end of the present age.
- 3) Jesus, having completed his discussion and debate with the religious leaders, left the temple to return to Bethany (cf. Matt., 26:6) by way of the Mount of Olives (Matt. 24:3). It was here that this discussion took place. Therefore, it is referred to as the **Olivet Discourse**, indicating the location where this message was given.

II. Exposition [Part I]

- A. In the original Greek, the words "**take heed**" were intended to **jar** and **jolt** the disciples to get their attention.
- B. Jesus warned them (and now us), that as the present age comes to a conclusion, and unprecedented deception would attempt to

encompass ever part of society.

C. In Matthew 24:4, the word "**deceive**" is used to depict this period when it will look as if delusion is taking over the world. It is the Greek word ***planao***, which means ***to lead astray*** or ***to wander off course***.

D. This word "deceive" could depict a ***single individual*** who has wandered far off-course, or it could describe ***a whole nation*** or ***nations*** that have morally veered from the position once held to be true.

E. ***Planao*** depicts a person (or nation) who, although once was established on solid ground, is now morally drifting, and teetering on the edge of a crooked, dangerous path.

F. This individual has lost his bearings and has drifted off-track.

III. Exposition [Part II]

A. In the years that passed between the Old and New Testaments, this same word "deceive" was often used to forecast a wide scale deception that would one day cover the earth.

B. It was believed by some learned scholars of that time that this deception would be a precursor to the glorious coming of the Messiah.

C. Additionally, it was a widely held belief that a deception of this magnitude could only occur as a result of demonic activity that would work intensely in the earth at the very end of the age.

D. The Apostle Paul, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, also confirmed this long-forecasted deception. In Second Thessalonians Chapter 2, Paul described distinct events that would occur on the earth at the very end of the age and continue with greater aggression and intensity.

E. People are being ***hoodwinked*** by deception every day and believe it or not, evil is present, and it will get worse. Listen to the

words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Thess. 2:6 - "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."

Comments:

- 1) The Thessalonians should have known what was restraining the man of evil (i.e., the Antichrist). The Antichrist will not be revealed until after the Rapture of the Church.

- 2) Based on God's Prophetic Plan, because Christians are indwelt and guided by the Holy Spirit, and it is the presence of the Holy Spirit Himself, He is restraining, preventing (i.e., withholding) the revelation of the man of sin (i.e., Antichrist). Even so, sin is ever present. Listen to Jeremiah 17:9 - "**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**"

- 3) Please look at 2 Thess. 2:7 - "For the mystery of iniquity (i.e., lawlessness, deception) doth already work."

F. People are being hoodwinked every day! Just look at the world around you. Can you see and hear deception at work? Just watch your nightly news and listen to the events that are covered.

Comment: How about the nuisance "robo-calls" that aggravate all of us day-after-day and night-after-night. It is all about **deception!**

G. In Matthew 24:4, Jesus foretold this worldwide deception in the last days and alerted His disciples that it would be a sign that His return was near.

H. As we come closer to the very last days of this age, we need to be vigilant and share the Gospel with the lost. This is also why it is so important that we keep our minds soaked with the Word of God.

Reflection Point: Right here I have a couple questions for you - What is your level of commitment to reading, absorbing, and living out the truths in your Bible? Can you honestly say that the Word of God "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)? Is the Word of God "the joy and rejoicing of your heart" (Jeremiah 15:16)?

I. Rather than becoming victims of the age and spiritual casualties in the Body of Christ, **let us not be hoodwinked!** Instead, let us through the **power** of the Holy Spirit, hold onto the **unalterable truths** of God's Word. Let us dig our heels deep into the Word, saturate our hearts and minds, and stand firm on the truth that **never changes**, regardless of how society around us changes in the days to come!

Shouting Time: Perhaps the words of an old song might help to encourage you. The song says - "I shall not, I shall not be moved - just like a tree that's planted by the waters - I shall not, shall not be moved!! Right here - somebody ought to feel like praising the Lord - GLORY!!

A Prayer For Today

Heavenly Father, I see that the world is slipping further into falsehood and delusion on so many fronts, just as Your Word said it would. Long-held moral truths are being reconsidered and changed. Biblical truths are being discounted and laid aside: and it seems that this process is rapidly increasing as we come to the close of this age.

In the name of Jesus, I ask You to give us (Your children), the inner courage and conviction to stand firm on Your Holy Word - to embrace it, and not sway from its unalterable truths, even if the world around us is slipping away from it.

Help us to embrace Your precious Word tighter than ever before and to keep our thoughts in agreement with Your Holy and Divine will.

This I pray in Jesus' name

Amen!

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. As always, all passages have been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"Therefore, my _____ brethren, be ye _____, unmovable, _____ abounding in the _____ of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in _____ in the Lord."

[1 Corinthians 15:58]

"Wherefore, _____, seeing that ye _____ for such things, be _____ that ye may be found of _____ in _____, without _____, and blameless."

[2 Peter 3:14]

"And he called his ten _____, and delivered them _____ pounds, and said unto them, _____ till I come."

[Luke 19:13]

"Take heed to _____, that your heart be not _____, and ye _____ aside, and _____ other gods, and _____ them."

[Deuteronomy 11:16]

"Little children, let no man _____ you: he that doeth _____ is _____, even as he is _____."

[1 John 3:7]

"And ye shall know the _____, and the _____ shall _____ you free."

[John 8:32]

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. Do you know any believer(s) who have slipped from their firm commitment to the eternal truths taught in the Bible?
 - a. What has been your response to this slipping away?
 - b. Have you prayed for him or her? Have you lovingly spoken to them about the direction they are taking?
2. Can you think of ways that the moral foundation in the world is changing - and how society is trying to push these changing morals on everyone?
3. In view of the above question, are you going to be bullied or hoodwinked to change your biblical view and go along with the

rest of the world, or are you going to stand on the truth that never changes?

I do pray that this time of study has been a blessing to you. I encourage you to stay firmly rooted and grounded in the Word of God and encourage others. As always, feel free to share what you have learned with others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin