

DON'T BE DECEIVED – MATTHEW 24:1-6

SERIES: HEARING THE MASTER'S VOICE

⁴ Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. **Matthew 24:4-5 (NIV)**

1. BE _____ OF WHAT IS HAPPENING

⁵ And Jesus, answering them, began to say: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁶ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and will deceive many. **Mark 13:5-6 (NKJV)**

⁸ He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. **Luke 21:8 (NIV)**

2. SPIRITUAL _____ IS A _____ INTRUSION

- "Spiritual failure is rarely a blowout, it's usually a slow leak."

⁴ The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the stary hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. **2 Kings 23:4 (NIV)**

¹⁴ Then he brought me to the entrance to the north gate of the house of the LORD, and I saw women sitting there, mourning for Tammuz. ¹⁵ He said to me, "Do you see this, son of man? You will see things that are even more detestable than this." ¹⁶ He then brought me into the inner court of the house of the LORD, and there at the entrance to the temple, between the portico and the altar, were about twenty-five men. With their backs toward the temple of the LORD and their faces toward the east, they were bowing down to the sun in the east.

Ezekiel 8:14-16 (NIV)

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. **1 Peter 5:8-9 (NIV)**

²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. ²⁵ Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. **2 Timothy 2:24-26 (NIV)**

3. THREE CRUCIAL TRUTHS

A. _____ IS BEHIND THESE DECEPTIONS

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. **Revelation 12:9 (ESV)**

⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44 (ESV)**

B. SATAN'S STRATEGY HAS NOT CHANGED

1) D _____ God's Word

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" **Genesis 3:1 (NIV)**

2) D _____ God's Word

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. **Genesis 3:4 (NIV)**

3) D _____ God's Word

⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **Genesis 3:5 (NIV)**

C. THE _____ OVER DECEPTION IS JESUS CHRIST!

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6 (NIV)**

¹ Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. **1 John 4:1 (NIV)**

⁶ We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

1 John 4:6 (NIV)

4. SHINE WHERE GOD HAS PLACED YOU!

¹ The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. ² Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. **1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NIV)**

¹⁴ Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶ as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. **Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV)**