

Introduction:

- **Last week we were in Genesis 6-9. We saw God's response to sin (He saw, He felt, He intended). We saw God's response to Noah, and God's response to Himself.**
 - **Take that message and let go to Mt 24 tonight.**
 - **Mt 24:37 says as it was in the days of Noah so it shall be when Christ returns.**
 - **Mt 13:30 "*Let both grow together*" Both evil and good will be at it apex!**
- In reading through Mt 24 recently, I was challenged to look at some of the common requirements that we have a tendency to over look.
 - Because they are in the last day's passage, we seem to make them bigger than they really are.
 - Because they are in the last day's passage, we don't think of them as applicable for today.
- I want to spend some time in Mt 24:4-14 looking at facets of this last days passage that we should be practicing everyday.
- In other words, if we will consistently do today what will be required of us then we will be far better off. We will not be trying to get ready when the storm comes.
- Mt 24:4-5 **And Jesus answered and said to them, "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. NKJV**

1. What is deception

- a. Webster—to lead into error, to take aside, to mislead.
- b. Gr. Planao-NT:4105 - to cause to stray, to lead astray, lead aside from the rigid way. To lead into error. Thayer's Greek Lexicon
 - i. Ie. Mt 18:12 **"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? NKJV**
 - ii. Mt 24:4,5,11,24 Jesus uses this word four times in just a few verses.
 - iii. I Peter 2:25 like sheep going astray.

2. Who does the deceiving?

- a. Self-deception has to be the worst deception because it is something that we do to ourselves. It is probably the easiest to fall into because of our own carnal desires, and willingness to accept lies in order to satisfy our "bent" perverted desires and emotions.
 - i. 1 Jn 1:8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. NKJV**
 - ii. Tit 3:3 **For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another NKJV**
 - iii. Isa 53:6 **we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; NKJV Jas 1:14-16 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. NKJV**
 - iv. We err because we refuse to listen and obey.
 - v. Backsliding is your first sign that you are being deceived. You leave the pursuit of truth and turn to craftiness and fickleness.
 1. You start looking for way to justify sin and disobedience.

- b. Evil men/imposters- those posing to be something that they are not. They are attempting to lead people astray.
 - i. 2 Ti 3:12-15 **Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,** NKJV
 - 1. Evil men-Use a more brutal or bullying way to lead people astray. They will use threats, and acts of violence.
 - 2. Imposters- a person who entices others by using pious or smooth words.
- c. Evil Spirits—
 - i. Jezebel--Rv 2:20 **Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.** NKJV
 - 1. Calls herself a prophetess—John Edward- Crossing Over; other psychics-they minister from a wrong spirit.
 - 2. it teaches—Oprah - she reminds me of the army vet from Vietnam who had around his neck a rabbits foot, a cross, rosary beads, Buddha, etc.
 - a. The biggest teaching platform is TV, Hollywood, magazines
 - b. College campuses that are run by liberal thinkers, leaders, professors.
 - 3. it seduces-Gr. Plana- to lead astray
 - ii. Eph. 6:12 Principalities- are ruling spirits that have the ability to deceive a nation, city, community. They bring certain belief systems to a person, city, region, or nation.
 - 1. Communism
 - 2. Buddhism
 - 3. Humanism- that man is sufficient by himself. He needs no God. Man is basically good and if left to himself, he will be all right. These people are the ones who lead us to do away with authority. Take fathers out of the lives of their children, take parents out of the children regarding education, etc., teachers have no authority.
- d. Satan
 - i. Rv 12:9 **So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world;** NKJV
 - ii. Rv 13:14 **And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.** NKJV

3. Seven Ways to Protect Myself from Deception

- a. 2 Tim. 3:14 Continue in the things you know and which you have learned.
 - i. Continue means lifestyle.
 - ii. You cannot just visit these things when life is difficult
 - iii. You must be committed to being conformed to the image of God. Ro. 12:1-3
 - iv. Gr. Mene- to remain, abide. To continue in what you know without changing.
- b. Ac 2:42 **And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.** NKJV (Four things that you must do consistently in order to remain).
- c. Apostles' doctrine/teaching or instruction.

- i. Ro 16:17 **those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.** NKJV
 - 1. If you only knew the number of people, Kelly and I have seen crash and burn because they sacrificed their doctrine. Happens all the time with people compromising their doctrine just to find a mate.
- ii. Carefully follow 1 Ti 4:6 **good doctrine which you have carefully followed** NKJV
- iii. Give attention to. 1 Ti 4:13 **Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine** NKJV
- iv. Take heed, examine. 1 Ti 4:16 **Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine . Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.** NKJV
- d. Fellowship – koinonia- fellowship, community, intimacy
 - i. There is protection in community. You can watch one another’s back.
 - ii. Good company builds good character. Bad company corrupts good character. Ie. It is like rust that starts eating away at a car’s body. It does not happen over night.
- e. Communion-body and blood of Christ. Keeping the Love before you. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friend.
- f. Prayer- talking with God and being intimate with Him.
- g. Grow up - Eph 4:14-16 **we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine , by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ —** NKJV
- h. Practice Righteousness
 - i. 1 Jn 3:7 **Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.** NKJV

Conclusion:

- The first thing Jesus said to His disciples regarding the end times in Mt. 24 was be careful to not be deceived. If that is the case, we need to get into place in our lives the preventative measures and consistently practice them on a daily basis.
- The church gets so deceived so quickly that I often wonder where our common Christian sense went.
 - o TV evangelists that are always asking for money.
 - o Buy this water from the Jordan and get healed.
 - o Apply this oil made from pomegranates and be delivered.
 - o Is he saved, “I don’t know but he is nice.”
- We must practice now and model the practice of sound doctrine before our kids and teach them how not to be deceived. We are getting ready and getting them ready for the big game day!