

Series: Words of Counsel and Correction

DECEITFUL WORKERS

2 CORINTHIANS 11

Text: 2 Corinthians 11:13

2 Corinthians 11:13

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

Introduction:

In this passage we are enlighten to a real problem with the church at Corinth and it is a real problem today as well.

Today we see people who are being influenced and that influence is coming from those who have transformed themselves into the apostles or workers of Christ.

Now we understand in this passage who is the master deceiver.

In verse 14 we see:

2 Corinthians 11:14

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

The master deceiver is Satan himself.

Turn to Isaiah 14 and also we will look at Ezekiel 28 and see some of this master deceiver's history.

In Isaiah 14 we read:

Isaiah 14:4-21

*⁴ That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! ⁵ The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. ⁶ He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. ⁷ The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. ⁸ Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us. ⁹ Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. ¹⁰ All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? ¹¹ Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. ¹² **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!** ¹³ **For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I***

will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

¹⁶ They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; ¹⁷ That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

¹⁸ All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. ¹⁹ But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.

²⁰ Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. ²¹ Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities.

Note also in Ezekiel 28:12-19:

Ezekiel 28:12-19

¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;

every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ **Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground,** I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Because of pride Lucifer or Satan was cast out of Heaven and has been deceiving people ever since.

Some of those he has deceived he is also using to deceive others.

It is these that Paul is warning us about. These are still in existence today.

These people are infiltrating churches and leading astray those who are not grounded and sound in doctrine.

I believe that the softest targets are those that float from church to church and who are not rooted and grounded.

I want to share just for a few minutes some thoughts about these deceitful workers.

Let's turn to John 18:1-2

John 18:1-2

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

² And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

Note:

1. THE COMPREHENSION OF A FALSE DISCIPLE OR DECEITFUL WORKER

A. The Know People

Matthew 10:2-4

² Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; ³ Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

Judas was numbered with the other disciples. He had traveled with them... talked with them ... lived with them! People recognized him as one of Christ's followers.

Today there are men and women who:

- Are members of churches
- Have made professions of faith
- Have been baptized
- Teach classes
- Serve on committees
- Stand in pulpits

Have multi-million dollar ministries

There are many who walk and SERVE alongside true disciples, they are numbered with the followers of Christ but they do not truly know Him!

Not only do they know people but:

B. The Know the Places

John 18:1-2

¹ When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

² And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

When it came time to betray Christ, Judas knew exactly where to find Him! Judas had been with Jesus and the others in this place several times before. He knew where to go!

This is very similar to many people today, they know the routine... When the time comes, they go where they are “supposed” to go!

There are people who attend every time the doors are open but are as lost as Judas was! I am sure in the time that Judas spent with Jesus, He had a firm grasp on the “routine”

You can know all of the rituals, routines and religious lingo and still die lost in your sins!

Not only do they know people and places but:

C. They Know the Plan

Mark 3:14

¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

Judas was “ordained” by Jesus. This word has the idea of training.

The Lord took the twelve and made them ready for the mission He was about to send them to accomplish.

Judas witnessed the character and compassion of Christ.

He heard the Lord’s words and saw His works.

Judas hardened his heart against every attempt of the Lord to reach him.

Imagine the miracles that Judas witnessed, consider the sermons that he heard from the Lord, think of all of those intimate conversations that Christ had with His

disciples....Judas knew the plan of salvation, Judas was present with the Lord for over 3 years!!!

You may be here and you know the plan:

- You were raised in church
- You attended Sunday School
- You have heard many sermons
- You have prayed many prayers
- You know the plan of salvation
- You have read your Bible

None of these things matter if you have never surrendered to Christ!

It's not about knowledge it is about a relationship!

Note not only the "Comprehension of a False Disciple" but also:

2. THE CAPABILITY OF A FALSE DISCIPLE OR DECEITFUL WORKERS

John 13:21-26

²¹ When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. ²² Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.

²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴ Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake. ²⁵ He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it? ²⁶ Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.

The Lord proclaims that one of his disciples... His closest followers would betray Him. All of the disciples began to look and consider who he was referring to. Peter even prompted John to ask Jesus who He was referring to. They did not say “I bet it is that hypocrite Judas”

What is the “Capability” of False disciples? They are capable of deceiving.

- They can deceive other disciples
- They can deceive a lost world

- They can even deceive themselves.

But they CANNOT deceive God!

Consider what the Lord says on the subject:

Matthew 7:22-23

²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Note not only the “Comprehension of a False Disciple or Deceitful Workers” and the “Capability of a False Disciple or Deceitful Workers” but also:

3. THE CONTRADICTIONS OF A FALSE DISCIPLE OR DECEITFUL WORKERS

Judas’ life was filled with contradictions. He had many opportunities to depart but he remained faithful...

- He even remained when others left.

John 6:66-71

⁶⁶ From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. ⁶⁷ Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? ⁶⁸ Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast

the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? ⁷¹ He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

The Lord had just revealed some hard truths and many that were following went away. The Lord looked at His disciples and asked if they would depart... Judas REMAINED!

- Judas also “appeared” to be concerned about the ministry.

John 12:4-6

⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

Maybe not the most spiritual of comments but notice that Judas used the ministry to the poor as a motive. Judas LOOKED AND PLAYED THE PART WELL! Eventually his true colors were revealed.

Notice:

- Judas sought out the opportunity to betray Christ

Matthew 26:14-16

¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, ¹⁵ And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

- Judas seized the opportunity to betray Christ

Luke 22:47-48

⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. ⁴⁸ But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

Judas went to the religious leaders because he wanted to “betray” the Lord. Like the rest, Judas was expecting the Lord to overthrow Rome and deliver Israel. He thought the Lord would immediately restore the kingdom in Israel, and reward His followers.

When it became apparent that the Lord was not going to do those things, Judas became disillusioned with the Lord.

There are many people who fill churches today who, like Judas, live lives filled with contradictions. They appear to have honorable intentions. They seem to care about the work of the ministry. They play the game, talk the talk and in many ways walk the walk, but eventually their true colors will be revealed.

Note not only the “Comprehension of a False Disciple or Deceitful Workers” the “Capability of a False Disciple or Deceitful Workers” the “Contradiction of a False Disciple or Deceitful Workers” but also:

4. THE CONDEMNATION OF A FALSE DISCIPLE OR DECEITFUL WORKER

Matthew 27:3-5

³ Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, ⁴ Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. ⁵ And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

After the Lord was arrested, Judas began to experience remorse not repentance for what he had done.

He tried to return the money, but it was too late, they refused to take the money. Judas threw the money

down in the Temple and then and he went out and hanged himself.

Acts 1:25

²⁵ That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Judas went to Hell because of his unbelief, but he had to work hard to get there.

Every sermon, every act of kindness, every miracle, everything that Judas had witnessed in the past 3 years was a call from the Lord to repent and believe on Him.

Close:

A lost man can do anything the saved man can do, and he may even do it better.

Just because an individual - preaches, prays, witnesses, gives, works in the church and attends church ...does not prove that he is saved.

A lost man can do all of that, and he may have success.

You can't base your relationship with Christ on what you do.

If you want to go to Heaven, you must be born again.

John 3:3

³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

We also should pray for discernment and wisdom as there are MANY even some claiming to be Baptist who are DECEITFUL WORKERS, who are deceiving many and sadly damning many to the lake of fire that was prepared for the Devil and his angels.