
A Plan for Deception and Betrayal

God's Plan For Your Trouble

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Sermon: God's Plan For Your Trouble: A Plan for Deception and Betrayal

Lesson Text

Matthew 24:10–13 (AV)¹⁰ **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.** ¹¹ **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.** ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.** ¹³ **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Introduction

So far, we've looked at the Trouble of our Offenses and Offenders from the perspective of Our Calling, Our Brother, and Ourselves.

Let's now dig into a particularly devastating form of Offenses and Offenders; that is from the things and the people that Deceive and Betray us.

As you recall, offense means to be done wrong, cause difficulty, discomfort, or injury. To violate, transgress, cause pain and hurt to the point that it creates resentment, anger, or vexation.

Matthew 24:10 **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.**

There is something particularly excruciating and painful with offenses that come from deception and betrayal; because by definition, it's coming from those we trusted.

- Psalm 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.
- Luke 22:48 But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

You eat at my table, you hugged and kissed me, I trusted you and now you've deceived, tricked, cheated, two-timed, swindled, double-crossed, and betrayed me.

But then it gets worse. After we've been hurt and deceived, we become vulnerable to vultures who come to pick at our nearly dead carcass to finish us off.

Matthew 24: ¹¹**And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.**

But God's got a plan for the offense of deception and betrayal!

Psalm 118: ¹⁷I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Matthew 24: ¹³**But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Series and Sermon: God's Plan For Your Trouble: A Plan for Deception and Betrayal

“The Deception of Good Intentions, The Deception of Evil Intentions, The Salvation of God's Intentions”

I. The Deception of Good Intentions

Matthew 24:10,12 ¹⁰ **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another...** ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

Perhaps you've heard the phrase, "The road to hell is paved with Good Intentions?" This first Offense of Deception comes from what I call Good Intentions. That is, those involved mean well, but folks are being deceived and destroyed nonetheless. It's an axiom that simply means that even with benevolent intent, we can still end up in destruction.

How many of you have ever said, "We need to talk?" But at the end of that talk, things were worse off than they were before the talk. I call this Involuntary Manslaughter!

Involuntary Manslaughter means that although you didn't mean it, the person is still dead!

Unfortunately, a lot of people are involved in **"Spiritual Involuntary Manslaughter!"** We are engaging in the Offense of Deception, killing each other, although it wasn't our intent.

Matthew 24:10 **And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.**

The people that are involved with betrayal were once close friends who trusted each other. The people involved in hatred used to love each other. So, what happened?

No one starts a friendship with the intent of betraying that friend; no one falls in love with the intent of one day hating their former lover. They had good intentions, but they were deceived!

When it comes to the spiritual things of God, good is not good enough; by itself, it leads to hell!

Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

It's the twelfth verse that explains the Deception of Good Intentions!

Matthew 24:12 ¹² **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

- Matt 24:(NLT)¹² **Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold**
- Matt 24:(GNB)¹² **Such will be the spread of evil that many people's love will grow cold**

Iniquity and Sin suppresses the Spiritual Power of God's Love and without it, good intentions will lead to the betrayal of once friends, hatred of once lovers.

I don't care how good you are, your good will deceive you:

- Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
- Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Good intentions will kill you, will kill your home, will kill your marriage, will kill your friendships, will kill your ministry, and will kill your calling.

But God's Got A Plan; it's the Love of God!

John 3:16 **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

1 Peter 4:8 (NLT)⁸ Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.

II. The Deception of Evil Intentions

Matthew 24:11 **And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.**

This next Offence of Deception comes from Bad or Evil Intentions. In other words, these people are literally trying to kill you. It isn't involuntary manslaughter; it isn't voluntary manslaughter; it is first degree murder.

John 8:44 **Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

The false prophet doesn't mean us well, his intent is to do what his father, the devil does; he lies with the intent of murdering us with all malice aforethought. **"Spiritual First Degree Murder."**

And you know what a person with bad, evil, malice intent needs? A Victim!

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

And where do you think he gets his victims from? The survivors of the involuntary manslaughter who are hurting, looking for help, but still struggling with sin and iniquity.

False Prophets are Vultures coming to pick at our dead carcass, Parasitic organisms coming to suck the life out of us while we are down.

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But God's got a plan: It's the Shepherd or Pastor of God!

John 10:10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

John 10:11 **I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.**

Jeremiah 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

III. The Salvation of God's Intentions

Matthew 24:13 **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

God's Got a Plan for the Offenses of Deception

God's Plan for the Deception of Good Intentions is the Love of God

- 1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

God's Plan for the Deception of Evil Intentions is the Shepherd of God

- John 10:10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

But God's Ultimate Plan for the Deception the Power of Endurance through Salvation

Ecclesiastes 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, ...

Salvation won't come from the fastest or the strongest.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Salvation won't come from the wisest or the one with the most ability

Matthew 24:13 **But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Salvation comes to those that endure to the end.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Psalms 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: A Plan for Deception and Betrayal)

Lesson Text

- Matthew 24:10–13

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *The Deception of Good Intentions*

II. *The Deception of Evil Intentions*

III. *The Salvation of God's Intentions*

Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday's Sermon?)

I. Getting to Know "Me"

1. What goes into your perfect sandwich?
2. If your life story were written in a book, what would be the title?

II. Into the Bible

1. Both Jesus and Matthew called Judas "the betrayer" in Matthew 26:46, 48. According to Matthew 26:48-50, Judas kissed Jesus and addressed him as "Hail Master" or, in some translations, "Greetings, Rabbi." In Jewish customs a formal kiss expressed mutual trust and friendship and the words he used were meant to show respect. Jesus addressed Judas as "Friend" in verse 50. What is the significance of this moment between Judas and Jesus?
2. As stated in Hebrews 12:1-4 we have examples of faith and endurance from the cloud of witnesses that surround us and from Jesus himself, who is our ultimate example. What does this passage teach us about moving past betrayal so we don't get weary or lose heart?

III. Life Application

1. ***The Deception of Good Intentions:*** This sermon has taught that all deception is not intentional. Is there anything we can do to discern unintentional deception? Should we be more willing to forgive the person since it was unintentional? Should we forgive ourselves for being deceived?
2. ***The Deception of Evil Intentions:*** Is it harder for you to forgive someone when they intended to hurt you? Have you intentionally hurt someone?... Did you feel better afterwards or did you regret it? What would you do differently?
3. ***The Salvation of God's Intentions:*** Think of all of the hypocritical things you've done to God (before and after salvation). How did God treat you after mistreating Him? How did you deserve to be treated? What lessons can we learn from how God treats us after we've mistreated Him?