

Five Stones Church

Sermon Study

Keep Scripture Relevant with Study Guides



Be Intentional

Before you start your study time, make sure you create an environment for Holy Spirit revelation.

Study Group

You can discuss difficult questions or topics with your small group or study partners.



Note-Taking

Take notes in an organized style to help you understand the subject more clearly. Take notes on Sunday

Become Equipped

Challenge yourself to memorize Scripture and key points from Sunday's sermon



Opening Prayer:

Invite God's presence into this study. Pray for understanding, peace, and clarity as we explore these profound promises and teachings about the End Times.

Anchor Scripture:

Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things will be fulfilled?' And Jesus, answering them, began to say, 'Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, "I am He," and will deceive many. - Mark 13:3-6

Sermon Study Guide - Mark 13:3-6 - Do Not Be Deceived In These Coming Days

Understanding the Times

Jesus' words remind us that being rooted in Scripture and truth is essential, especially when surrounded by voices claiming to have authority.

Understanding the times means staying vigilant and comparing every influence to the unwavering truth of God's Word.

Reflection Questions:

- What does Jesus' warning to "take heed that no one deceives you" mean to you personally?
- Why do you think Jesus emphasizes deception so strongly when talking about the end times?

Action Step:

Take a few minutes to reflect on sources of information you rely on. Commit to testing all teachings and messages against God's Word to avoid deception.

False Messiah & Prophets

Historical Example:

In Acts 8:9-24, Simon the Sorcerer used magic to amaze the people of Samaria, even leading some to believe he was the Messiah. Though he later encountered Christ, his initial influence deceived many, showing the danger of those who claim false authority.

Reflection Questions:

- What qualities do these false leaders share, both in biblical and modern examples?
- How can we recognize similar figures today?

Action Step:

Pray for discernment and wisdom. Ask God to protect you from deception and to reveal any areas where you may be unknowingly influenced by false teaching.

Seeking God's Word Over Signs

Key Insight:

The Pharisees asked Jesus for signs but were blind to His presence and message. Jesus was physically among them—the ultimate sign of God's redemptive work. Yet, they missed it due to unbelief.

Scripture Reflection:

“And these signs will follow those who believe...” (Mark 16:17)

Rather than seeking signs, Jesus encourages us to live in a way where signs follow our faith.

Reflection Questions:

- Why is it more important to seek God's Word than to seek signs?
- How does God reveal His truth to you through His Word?

Action Step:

Make a commitment to spend time each day reading Scripture. Write down a verse that stands out to you and pray for insight on how it applies to your life.

Equip, Don't Entertain - Building a Faith Foundation

EQUIPPING MOMENT:

Pastor Scott emphasizes that the Church's role is to equip believers, not entertain them. Entertainment fades, but equipping builds a lasting foundation.

Reflection Questions:

- How does regular Bible study equip you against deception?
- Are you allowing the church and Scripture to equip you, or are you more drawn to entertaining aspects of faith?

Action Step:

If you're not already in one, consider joining a small group or Bible study where you can go deeper into God's Word.

Seek out resources that encourage spiritual growth.

Guarding Your Mind Against Deception

Renewing the Mind:

Jesus warned that deception would start in the mind. Romans 12:2 teaches us to be transformed by renewing our minds, rather than conforming to the world.

Reflection Questions:

- What steps can you take to renew your mind daily?
- In what areas are you most vulnerable to deception, and how can Scripture strengthen you in those areas?

Action Step:

Each morning, pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and help you discern truth from lies.

Make it a habit to start your day with a verse that reminds you of God's truth.

Recognizing the “Signs of the Times”

Jesus’ Warning to the Disciples:

The disciples asked about signs, wanting to understand when events would unfold. Jesus, instead, directs them to guard against deception and stay alert.

Discussion of the “Lawless One”

Pastor Scott notes that the lawless one will deceive many by imitating God’s power. This Antichrist figure will use counterfeit miracles to mislead those who are not firmly rooted in Scripture.

Reflection Question:

- How can understanding God’s Word help us recognize false “signs and wonders”?

Action Step:

Ask God for a discerning heart, particularly regarding teachings and movements you encounter.

Closing Reflections – Stand Firm in Truth

Final Reflection:

Pastor Scott emphasizes that the Church's mission is to pursue holiness and to be refined, preparing for Christ's return.

Jesus said, “And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” (Mark 13:37). We are called to stay vigilant, aware of deceptions, and rooted in truth.

Reflection Questions:

- How can you actively “watch” and stay prepared in your daily life?
- What changes can you make to ensure you're not complacent in your walk with God?

Closing Prayer:

Lord, help me to stand firm in Your truth and be alert to any deception that may lead me away from You. Strengthen my foundation in Your Word, and let my life be a testament to Your holiness. Give me the courage to pursue holiness and to share Your truth with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Final Action Step:

Take a moment to reflect on areas of your life where you need to be more vigilant.

Write down one area where you want to grow in discernment and commit to praying for wisdom and strength to stand firm.

