

Matthew 22-04-03a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services at Grace & Truth Bible Church. This is the third day of April 2022 and we continue our study in the gospel of Matthew chapter 24. Matthew chapter 24.

We'll take a moment to ask God's blessing to remember the importance of the ministry of God's Holy Spirit for the study of God's word to enable and empower our fellowship the encouragement and the function of our spiritual gifts on behalf of one another and to shine light on the truth that we are about to investigate in his word. Shall we pray? Father, thank you for this day. Thank you for the preservation, the protection, the provision that you make for us.

We thank you for our challenges. We thank you for the difficulties that give us the opportunity to exercise our faith and to remember that we are your children. We are held in your hands.

We are woven into the fabric of your plan and purpose and we are related to you through the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank you for him. We thank you for his example of faithfulness, of obedience, of dedication to your truth and living it and communicating it and reflecting it in the world and we pray that as his body on this earth we can do the same that our fellowship this morning will contribute to that goal that God the Holy Spirit will find us malleable and impressionable and persuadable so that as we turn to you for guidance and for light in our lives we will find it in and through your word and your spirit.

We Let's take a look at our passage and review where we are in Matthew chapter 24. This is called the Olivet Discourse as I mentioned last time and it is a response to a three-fold question. Tell us when will these things be? What will be the sign of your coming? What will be the sign of the end of the age? Jesus answered and said to them, take heed that no one deceives you.

I cannot emphasize too strongly this introductory statement because it is going to resurface time and time and time again throughout these two chapters 24 and 25. Don't be deceived. Deceit is the original problem sin entered the world and death by sin and death passed on to all men and it originated with deceit.

Satan was a liar from the beginning. He masquerades. He charades.

He dresses up as an angel of light and by him many have been deceived. Many are deceived and many are going to be deceived. Be not deceived for many will come in my name saying I myself am the Christ and will deceive many.

Take heed that no one deceives you because many will come and deceive many. Many will come. Many will be deceived and you will hear of wars and reports of wars.

Behold it. Do not be troubled. They must come to pass.

They must come. They are bound. This is dei from deo which means to bind, to tie.

It's used of bonds and it literally in English you can translate this they are bound to come to pass. God has tied these things into his plan and purpose. They are inevitable.

What God ties no man's going to untie whether it's a marriage or it is the progress of events in history. They are bound to come to pass but the end is not yet and this marking out of when the end is in verse 6 he goes on to say in verse 8 these are the beginning of sorrows but the end will come later on. He who endures to the end in verse 13 will be saved.

This gospel verse 14 will be preached to all the world as a witness to all the nations then the end will come. So everything from verse 6 to verse 14a precedes the end. It is a beginning.

They are birth pangs. They are sorrows and many will be deceived in that period then the end will come. This is the section that we're looking at verses 6 through 14 and there is a facet of this that we can look at in terms of what is the great tribulation.

What is the nature of this time of wrath on the earth? There's a lot we could say about that and we're going to take a look at that but I want to look at this part first because it gives us an approach. It gives us a context and a settled heart before we look at those things and the focus here is do not be deceived. Many are going to come and deceive.

Jesus says in verse 9 after the beginning of sorrows they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. Many will be offended will betray one another and will hate one another then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. This then in verse 11 does not mean after that like this happens then that happens as a concomitant as a or as a as a subsequent event or as a result or sequentially thereafter.

Then means during this time. Be sure you note in verse 11 then means during this time then in these times when all these other things are happening many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. Could Jesus be any more emphatic about the importance of knowing the truth and have you ever lived in a time in your life when it was harder to find truth even now there is so much spin there is so much cadging and hedging and leaving out of pertinent facts and salient context and objectivity that it is very difficult no matter who you listen to to find the truth.

And yet Jesus says over and over again warning warning deceit is going to rule the day betrayal is based on deceit you act like a friend and then you betray you give someone into the hand of power and notice in verse 12 because lawlessness will abound namas is the law and this is got the alpha privative anomia lawlessness this means people do not

follow an ethical or moral standard for Jews this would have been the law of Moses for Christians this is the law of love this is the law of Christ this is the that which pleases God but departure from any objective standard of goodness will abound abound prevail be ubiquitous and notice the love of many will grow cold we had an interesting study on Wednesday night about the comparison and contrast of what it means to look to authority to look to God to look to someone where we should have humility we should have humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God children obey your parents fear God honor the king and the contrast between fear as a servile disinclination toward punishment and being caught doing something wrong versus honor which is respect and treating an authority as from God and then love and each is subsumed within another if you honor the law if you honor the king you are going to naturally fear failing to obey the law failing to be in the good graces of the king and then both of those in turn are subsumed if you love then you are going to honor and you are going to fear disappointing or falling short of a standard now there's plenty to think about in that regard husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and there is a limitation on those facets depending on direction in the upward direction fear and honor can be subsumed in love if we love God we will also honor God and we will also fear God and fear falling short Christ loved the church but we are not objects of honor or of fear Jesus isn't going to fear our punishment and this is one of the mistakes that's being made in the in the progressive church movement the the modern notion of of everything is about love and everything is about the Jesus hermeneutic and so on because it fails to distinguish directionality in love and this is why the Bible says as we saw on Wednesday God is love but God is not honor and God is not fear because love should flow upward toward God and God's love flows toward us but we are not appropriate objects for God to to respect us the way we respect him when Jesus said I no longer call you servants but I call you friends there is a large segment of Christianity now that thinks that this is buddy buddy sort of equal friendship but ask yourself the question when Jesus gives commands to his disciples could they turn around and give those same commands to Jesus the promises that Jesus makes in love could those promises be made back well Lord Jesus if you'll if you'll do what I ask you to I'll come and make my home with you I'll abide in your presence if you don't disappoint me it's not equal even though love flows in both directions the direction is important right our love upward toward God and toward the Lord Jesus Christ includes the honor and respect and giving glory to God that is a part of honor and it includes disinclination to fall short and disappoint God and be liable for judgment and for discipline we note the difference in directionality and in quality God is able to love in ways that are literally impossible for us and so on anyway the when we get to this section on the love of many will grow cold in verse 12 there's there's a lot to to look at there but this morning we are going to focus because the overall emphasis if you were going to take one thing away from this section what do you think it would be what does Jesus say beginning middle and end don't be deceived I say okay I don't think it would be enjoyable to be deceived I think it doesn't usually do much good to be deceived so how can I avoid that what is the nature of this deceit how can I fulfill this

exhortation and imperative to not be deceived just because you don't want to be deceived doesn't mean you don't get deceived wanting to not be deceived is not enough you need mechanisms you need some kind of procedure you need some sort of identification ability for truth versus error well happily we have already seen Jesus talk about this same subject earlier because you will notice that the source of this deceit is described here in some detail first of all those who deceive many in verse five what are they saying what are the ones that we really need to watch those who affirm that Jesus himself is the Christ we've been through this if Jesus wanted to say these people are going to claim that they themselves are the Christ there's two ways he could have done that he could have said many will come in my name saying they are the Christ or he could have said many will come claiming to be ego a me I am the Christ claiming to be put the infinitive in there all he needed is the infinitive but when they come and say and Jesus is speaking I myself am the Christ this means that they are affirming this is how they get through the door we've seen this over the last few weeks so characteristic one of those by whom we are liable we are potentially able to be deceived is they affirm Jesus is the Christ he's the Messiah he is the coming son of God they affirm that and this tends to cause us to let our guard down so what would you conclude from this deceit will oftentimes come from inside the camp we tend to think oh it's the world it's the flesh it's the devil we need to add a fourth source of potential leading astray and that is my neighbor my fellow believer those who purport to be pastors and teachers and authors and ministry leaders and who affirm in golden typeset letters Jesus is the Christ and they're leading hordes of people astray all you have to do is look at a camera sweep across the sanctuaries of some mega churches that are on tv today and then listen to the message that is being preached and it is false it is unbiblical it is distracting it is deflecting it is human in its origin it is satanic in its inspiration and it leads thousands and thousands and thousands of people astray who think they're going to church think they're hearing the word of God think they're being led to a closer walk with God and they are being deceived it's internal this is what Jesus warns about do you really need a warning to don't follow the devil now don't give in to the lust of the flesh it doesn't take a lot of warning we kind of know that already if if satan comes and says reject God come follow me join the dark forces of evil we don't have a problem with that we need warning and we need caution and we need to be alert watch and pray about that which purports to be true that which purports to be a light shining on our path and it isn't so that's the first characteristic that we need to watch for is primarily for us it's going to be people in our own camp who are potentially going to deceive us there is going to be conflict and reports of conflict these wars and one of the ways that we are set up for deception is that we are distracted by world events we are distracted by conflict war is one of the ugliest manifestations of man's humanity to man that there is from the beginning you have the inception of war when Cain kills Abel and groups have gotten together and done this to each other ever since anyone who glorifies war or who looks forward to it or wants to participate in it hasn't probably ever actually been in one doesn't understand how vicious and awful it can be and when reports of this as we now have available in

stereo sound and high definition get slid down the trough into our minds it's a distraction we need to be aware but if it overtakes our thinking you know the question can be asked I heard somebody a day or two ago ask the question why is it that a war completely on the other side of the globe between two entities with which we have very little to do as individual Americans why is it 24-7 wall-to-wall coverage on that for us I think a report a discussion of what the economic impact might be because of the various trade items that we exchange with the involved entities would be helpful but the complete obsession and compulsive soaking in this thing every minute that we spend looking at that we're not thinking about who we are and why we're here so it is an avenue of deception that these wars and people are naturally incentivized to fear by war these things come deception must come it is bound to come wars and the reporting on wars is bound to come but the end is not yet the end is something special and we'll talk about what the end is shortly because before the end comes the end is not yet for nation will rise against nation kingdom against kingdom there will be famines and earthquakes in various places famines and earthquakes pestilences isn't there famines and earthquakes in diverse places all these are the beginning of sorrows not the end these anticipate these begin to happen with increasing frequency and increasing intensity before that and part of this goes back to the reports of wars the reports of these famines and the reports of these earthquakes are implied here that knowledge of them is going to be similar to that which happens with wars and of course we have that situation uh mandy's out all these are the beginning of sorrows then in verse 9 they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake the critical question in verse 9 is who is you is this the 11 disciples is this national israel the jews is it all those who follow christ to include church age believers who is it that is going to be delivered up to tribulation and killed and hated by all nations for my namesake i will answer that question now you can heave a sigh of relief the u here that are delivered up to tribulation that is the key because this philipsis t-h-l-i-p-s-i-s this tribulation is an immediate precursor immediately precedes the end so as this progresses forward we have now moved across the end of the church age and the early days of the 70th week of daniel and at the point that they deliver you jewish believers old testament saints represented by the disciples who are listening to jesus give this talk and remember the disciples are the one listening this is 24 one the disciples ask about the temple the disciples come to him privately this is not the crowd so you in this case is the uh the jewish believers they will be delivered up to tribulation this is the last half of the 70th week they will be killed there are going to be many martyrs remember the blood of the martyrs that comes from under the altar in revelation how long oh lord until we are avenged and so on hated by all nations this is the second clue hated by all nations this is a national hatred this is gentiles versus jews when you see the nations in contrast to you this is this is israel the church is made up of all nations but the church is gone and israel and the jewish believers who who claim jesus name hated by all nations for my name's sake the gentiles are going to hate the saved jews in the latter half it's very clear there's no mistaking it you really can't find a way to take it any other way these are tribulational

saints jewish saints old testament last three and a half years of the old testament age who are delivered up to tribulation killed and hated by all nations for the sake of the name of the lord jesus and there will be a conversion that takes place probably in the middle of the week when the covenant is broken the abomination of desolation is set up there's going to be a great number of jews who are going to realize that the claims of the lord jesus are valid he is was and is their messiah they're going come to faith you're going to have the 144 000 12 000 from each tribe that are sealed in their foreheads and so on that's who he is talking about here and then many will be offended this is from scindolizzo and it means to be caused to stumble it's it's used for being snared and being trapped your feet are taken out from under you you fall and you can't get up and leave you're it is a combination of being tripped and stumbling and falling down and you're snared many will be snared what are they going to be snared by this this atmosphere of hatred vituperation persecution betrayal people being delivered up and imprisoned and executed hated by everyone in the world is going to cause these who initially claimed the name of christ to stumble and fall to be snared and will betray one another you can go back to the parable of the soils where the seed that is in shallow soil springs up in a day and it looks just like all of the other plants but when the heat comes it has no root and it dies and withers and is gone and these that are initially a part of the jesus movement among the jews are going to look around and say it's not worth it and they're going to turn around and betray their fellow jewish believers to the authorities who are killing them as a danger to society as a danger to national israel as it exists in that time under the purview of the beast and the false prophet who have a bitter hatred for anything related to the lord jesus they are going to use these turncoats the way satan used judas to betray these individuals into the hands of the authorities to be slain notice in verse 11 then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many this is going to be one of the most attacked groups of believers ever because they are going to be attacked from within uh the my my familiar friend who shares my table has lifted up his heel against me the the upper room meal where jesus dips his hand in the dish with judas is going to be repeated a thousand fold during this time betray one another and many false prophets will rise up and deceive many false messages the the jesus you understand the messiah jesus the first advent jesus the atonement all of the work of the lord jesus his role as the son of david as the lion of the tribe of judah that's that's not right what we really meant was a political or a social or a some other harmless movement and these false teachers false prophets uh and you're going to see this word uh pseudo that is attached this pseudo profites is going to occur over and over again uh you're going to see um in verse 24 when we get down that far where it says false christs this is pseudo christoi false prophets false christs uh these lies and deceptions are going to carry away many and it is a combination they are persuaded by a combination of fear and half truths fear and half truths and because lawlessness will abound remember the scriptures to israel were the law and the prophets and getting away from the truth of scripture this is what is going to prevail because lawlessness not just in the sense of breaking the law but not having the law not having a of truth being deceived into

believing the lie not having the law as an anchor and once again the law prevails during the age of israel and this is lawlessness so this is another clue that we know the period being described is the 70th week and specifically the latter half of the 70th week what do we learn looking at israel as goes old testament israel whether it is past or future we don't just say well i heave a sigh of relief i wipe my brow i don't have to go through this period i don't have to watch out for being delivered up and betrayed and killed our spiritual life is informed and conditioned by what we see in national israel and this hatred for fidelity to christ this betrayal by those who are near and in some cases dear we look at in spiritual terms for interpretation and application now it may not be physical death that we face but you can be socially slain you can be culturally canceled you can be obviated you can be sidelined you can be ignored you can be hated you can be betrayed people talking behind your back people assassinating your character assassinating your your spiritual status and what they perceive to be your walk with the lord and it's very painful it's very damaging it is corrosive it is poisonous in the camp there is sin in the camp and we have to fortify ourselves we have to know how to identify what is false and we need to know how to respond to what is false and continue our walk as i said we have already seen this and jesus has talked about these false prophets turn back to chapter 7 one of our most oft quoted oft repeated and beloved exhortations from the lord jesus is here in verse 13 of matthew 7 enter by the narrow gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it the text note that you have in your new king james at the beginning of verse 14 i think is valid the a lot of the reliable manuscripts for this don't say because jesus says how narrow is the gate and how difficult is the way which leads to life it's an exclamation he doesn't say there are many who go into the wide gate because the other one is narrow you see what i mean uh you can almost read into this that well there's so many people going down the broad way through the wide gate because the other one's hard to find it isn't that it's hard to find it's just narrow did you ever ask yourself this question i asked myself this question why is the gate so narrow why didn't god make the gate equally wide and why didn't he make the path equally broad why is that doesn't god want none to perish but all to come to repentance why is there a great big honking why isn't the gate to life bigger than the gate to death why isn't the path way more broad what do you think jesus exclaims here i'm i am with the the manuscripts that say how narrow is the gate how difficult is the way that leads to life and there are few who find it why is the why is the road so narrow how many ways are there to do something wrong how many ways are there to do something right because the love of many never develops because the love of others is sporadic and impulsive and irregular because the love of many grows cold because there are few who are asking and seeking and knocking as their top priority to enter into the narrow gate it doesn't have to be very wide it doesn't have to be very big there are reasons why our rogers county roads are basically single lane just wide enough to pass oncoming traffic if you get your tires right on the edge and there's reason that i-44 is six lanes three lanes on each side there's a lot of traffic on the interstate there is

very sporadic and occasional traffic on the county road they don't need to make a six-lane highway out of every county road we lose an awful lot of pasture farmland fences and even houses if they tried to do that it doesn't need to be any wider and by the way not only is it narrow but it's difficult it is it takes dedication why is it narrow why is it difficult because it is a test if these who come to faith in the tribulation were not tested they wouldn't look any different than the genuine believers who are paying attention who are looking to god for guidance who are reading the scriptures and when they see the abomination fleeing to the hills and so on you wouldn't be able to distinguish the light lightly invested occasionally interested people from those who are deeply interested who are asking and seeking and knocking who love the lord god with all their heart all their mind all their soul and all their strength why is the way narrow and difficult as is the gate because it spreads the field it shows who is interested and who is not it gives an opportunity to demonstrate great faith great love great dedication great humility great obedience if the teacher only gave the class a super easy 10 question quiz you could have studied you could have mastered the material and you would be indistinguishable from somebody that just guessed because they were just so easy it is the difficult questions it's the bonus questions it's those that require you to actually understand the formulas not just memorize them who actually understand how to approach a problem and solve it that's why teachers give tests that have some hard questions on them so that those who have put in the time and who deserve to excel and deserve to be recognized for their mastery the material can shine can show that they that they get it god has a reason for everything that he does but this isn't really our point this is just our beginning point here and notice verse 15 what did jesus say in matthew chapter 7 verse 15 beware of pseudo prophets not only is the attack from within but it is given by those who are allegedly communicators of the word of god prophets are supposed to be conveyances for the word of god the law and the prophets but there are false prophets they are not what they seem and they deceive well we have much more to see about this but as a point of application there is a lot of what passes for christian literature christian books christian ministries christian blogs podcasts tweets there is a just a stunning amount of information that is given under the banner and the impremature of the cross and of christ that's what we have to watch for that's what we have to exercise discernment on we have to be careful watchful prayerful discerning apply what we know from the word of god that we've learned in the past and examine this and ensure that it is right and call it out when it's not you know how they called out a false prophet in israel they stoned him by the word and command of god if a man prophesies and it is not true that's a death penalty offense once again now we're not saying if you find somebody that wrote a bad christian book go take their life in the same way that we are not being physically murdered for our faith we don't go physically stone somebody who's a false prophet what do we do they need to be identified their error needs to be called out by those who deception is going to continue so long as the truth is not elevated and given by way of contrast and this is not physical life and death in our application but it is spiritually a life and death situation if people are being

deceived by false gospel false prophets false purveyors who if not us is going to call it out who else is going to identify those who know the truth have to speak up and say that's a lie wouldn't have been something if gabriel had come sauntering through the garden when the snake was talking to eve and said you know eve think for a second before you take that bite what did he just say did you notice that there's a piece of the truth he left out it's it's deceit by omission of truth hath god not said you can eat of every tree he did say that but but there's another truth that balances it and keeps you from taking it to an extreme there is one tree you are not to eat of it's a half truth half truths are the worst well we have more to say when we come back from the break but we'll we'll pause here for fellowship and refreshment