



## The Invisible Threat – (Sun.) April 26, 2020

*The Enemy Within (Sin)* [#5 - The Tricks of the Trade]

James 1:14–15

### The Art of Deception

#### Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

- Huck Finn: The “Pirate” Dauphin gets “saved”

“This is the art of deception: *to make someone believe that things are other than they are, so that he will do something he would never otherwise do.* This is the way your flesh makes you into the willing servant of sin.”<sup>i</sup> (Italics his)

#### Looking Ahead

Notes:

#### I. Today – Part Two: The Power of Sin in How It Works

5. The Tricks of the Trade (introduction)

““The *mind* is the Sentinel, commanded to watch carefully over the soul by questioning, assessing, and making judgments: “Will this please God?” “Is this according to God’s word?” If the mind determines that an action is right, the *affections* should then fall in line and desire, long for, and cling to that which the mind said was good. Last, the *will* puts the soul into action, carrying out what the mind said was good and the affections hungered for. When each does its job, you will obey God from the heart.

You can see what a mess deception makes of obedience. If your mind is persuaded to believe a sin is good for your soul, and your affections work up an appetite for it, your will gives its consent—the dominoes fall and the flesh bears its putrid fruit you in your life.”<sup>i</sup> (Italics his)

#### II. Coming Chapters

“In chapter 6 and 7 we’ll expose the flesh’s mind games. In chapter 8 we’ll see how it in tangles the affections. In chapter 9 we’ll consider the actual consent to sin and how the flesh wheedles the will into it.”

6. Getting Carried Away (mind)
7. No Idle Mind (mind)

Excursus: Loving God with All Your Mind (mind)

8. Hooked (affections)
9. Maculate Conception (will)

#### The Tricks of the Trade (Introduction)

## I. The Trial of Our Deceitful Hearts (Jeremiah 17:9)

### A. Steadfast Under Trial

#### James 1:12

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains **steadfast** *under trial* (noun), for when he has ***stood the test*** he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

### B. What Trial?

#### 1. Not from God

#### James 1:13

<sup>13</sup> Let no one say ***when he is tempted*** (participle), “***I am being tempted*** (verb) by God,” for God ***cannot be tempted*** with evil, and he himself ***tempts*** (verb) no one.

#### 2. All of Life is a Trial (Rich & Poor)

#### James 1:9–11, 16a

<sup>9</sup> Let the **lowly brother** ***boast in his exaltation***, <sup>10</sup> and the **rich in his humiliation**, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

<sup>16</sup> ***Do not be deceived***...

### C. The Anatomy of Temptation<sup>i</sup> (14-15)

<sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is ***lured***<sup>1</sup> and ***enticed*** by ***his own desire***. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has ***conceived gives birth*** to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth ***death***.

1. ***Dragged away*** (the mind)
2. ***Enticed*** (the affections)
3. Sin ***Conceived*** (in the will)
4. The ***Birth*** of Sin (in actions, words, thoughts etc.)
5. Leading to ***Death*** (enslavement to sin is spiritual death) 

### Don't Be Deceived

#### James 1:16a

<sup>16</sup> ***Do not be deceived***, my beloved brothers...

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<sup>1</sup> 'to pull out, to drag,' Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 374). New York: United Bible Societies.

## I. The Flesh Lies

- A. Assaults the *Mind* with Lies
- B. Entices Our *Affections*
- C. Tricking us into *Choosing* Evil as if it is Good (the *Will*)
- D. Ultimately *Killing* Us

The flesh would have us eating poison.

## II. The LORD's Life-Giving Food (The Grain Offering)

### James 1:16–17

<sup>16</sup> *Do not be deceived*, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- A. The Truth & Sincerity of “Unleavened Bread”
- B. Eating of “the Bread of Life”

### 1 Corinthians 5:6–8

<sup>6</sup> Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that *a little leaven leavens the whole lump*? <sup>7</sup> Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are *unleavened*. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

### John 6:33–35

<sup>33</sup> *For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.* ... <sup>35</sup> **Jesus said** to them, “***I am the bread of life***; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

### John 6:27

<sup>27</sup> Do not work for the *food that perishes*, but for the *food that endures to eternal life*, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”

## III. We are Just the Firstfruits

### James 1:18

<sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be *a kind of firstfruits* of his creatures.



**[TURN OF RECORDING]**

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion <sup>i</sup>

(I modified the questions to match my weekend sermon)

1. Think of the best magic trick you've ever seen. What made it work on you?
2. Have you ever been really taken by a salesman? How did he hook you? What strategy did he use, and why was it effective? Has your flash ever worked you over the same way to get you into a sin? Tell what happened.
3. We saw that the Serpent's deception in the garden became the same pattern used by the flesh in our lives. Look closely at the story of the fall, in Genesis 3:1-6. How did the serpent persuade Eve to eat? Describe his deception in detail:

What did he hide or disguise?

What did he accentuate, and how did he make sin attractive?

4. Without looking ahead to the next two chapters, make a list of what you think some of the duties of the mind are in obeying God. (Remember the image of the mind as the watchmen of the soul).

For each you think of, describe how you think the flesh drags your mind away from those duties.

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<sup>i</sup> **Lundgaard, Kris.** *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin.* P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.