

# Be Aware

Matthew 16:22-23; John 8:44; Acts 5:3-4; 1 John 3:11-15; James 3:13-15; 1 Tim. 6:9-10

## Sermon Outline

### A. Of Being Self Reliant (Matthew 16:22-23):

1. Took Him aside; Accept, receive – Peter took a special interest in what Christ was saying about His death. He physically took hold of Christ, took Him aside, and sought to tell Christ what will take place that is contrary to what Christ was saying.
2. Began to rebuke Christ - Peter repeatedly commanded Christ to change what He was saying.
3. Lord! – Many times, we call on Christ demanding that He fulfill what we believe is right and what we need for Him to do.
4. Turn and said – Christ once and for all decisively turned Himself and commanded Peter to follow His direction.
5. Turn and said – Christ will always demand that we adjust to His will because it is all about what God desires us to do.
6. Get behind me Satan – Peter's decision to move Christ in a different direction was because Satan, the prince of the devils, was moving him to be an opposer to God's agenda.
7. Get behind me Satan – Our selfish ambitions can be demonic (James 3:13-16).
8. Setting your mind – Peter's desires have caused him to passionately, continuously devote himself to his way of thinking. He is continuously seeking to influence Christ to what he has set his mind to do. Our convictions must be God-led, not led by our passions.
9. Setting your mind – Earthly wisdom is useless to God, but useful for Satan who can still influence us (Prov. 3:5-6) even though He cannot possess a believer's body (1 Cor. 3:16).

### B. Of Human Wisdom (James 3:13-16; Acts 5:3-4; Proverbs 3:5-6).

1. What is wisdom:
  - a) It comes directly from heaven (1:5; James 1:5-9).
  - b) It is an expert application of God's word for everyday living.

2. Earthly wisdom is:

- a) Arrogant about the truth- They boasted in what they believed because they wanted to advance themselves (selfish ambition).
- b) Arrogant about the truth – To boast about one’s beliefs even when it contradicts God’s Word (1 Timothy 4:1-2).
- c) Earthly– Can find it in a book, on the radio, on blogs, TV. (Example – some people developed relationships based on “Days of our Lives.”
- d) Natural – It is based on how a person feels or thinks.
- e) Demonic – It is divisive, functioning like demons.
- f) Disorderly – It creates confusion, people fighting for their rights, and can become violent.

3. The danger of earthly wisdom (Acts 5:3-4):

- a) Why has Satan – Peter wondered why Ananias allowed the prince of the devils and evil spirits, the opposer of Christians, lead him to sin. Interesting that Peter asks this question because he allowed himself the same.
- b) Filled your heart - Satan influenced Ananias to have a passionate, strong desire to willfully perpetuate a lie.
- c) Lie against the Holy Spirit – Ananias knew the direction of the Holy Spirit in His life, since the Holy Spirit’s conviction (John 16:7-11), knew he was coming into the presence of the Lord; yet he still put it upon himself to seek to deceive and mislead Peter about what happened when he sold his property.
- d) Conceive this; Appointed – Earthly wisdom is self-generated by way of human experiences in a world that Satan lords over (1 John 5:19). It makes our path crooked (Proverbs 3:5-6), and it can become demonic.

## **C. Of Deception... It Destroys the Deceiver (John 8:44):**

- 1. You are of your Father – Genitive, meaning they are possessed by the person who gave birth the process of slandering Christ.
- 2. Devil – The word Devil is used here because it describes how the Devil creates Division; he is an accuser of the brethren and is a slanderer. This is what the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes, and High Priest were doing to Christ when they knew He was the promised Messiah (John 5:39-40).
- 3. Does not stand in the truth - Satan is totally not concerned about the will of God and he will seek to deceive a person to not believe those things that actually lie before their eyes.
- 4. When he speaks – Satan makes it a habit to speak lies – he knowingly, continuously misrepresents the truth to achieve whatever he is seeking to

achieve. Satan is not silent; he is always seeking to counterfeit what Christ is teaching (2 Cor. 11:13-15).

5. He is a liar – Satan’s entire purpose is to deceive by creating false statements, and misleading statements focused on perpetuating untruths.
6. Father – Satan is the beginner of all falsehood and is the purpose for which all untruths exist.
7. Father – Satan will fill the world with a lot of liars so that believers become confused, maybe even turn from the truth (2 Corinthians 11).

## **D. Of all Forms of Greed (1 Timothy 6:9-10):**

1. Those who want to get rich; abounding – These are believers who constantly give their time to having an abundance of possessions.
2. Fall into temptation – The lure of riches can cause a believer to continuously become entangled in sin so that they discover good and evil or simply live contrary to the will of God. It happens in this manner:
  - a) Snare – A snare means that the riches become something the believer is trapped into so that it controls their every decision.
  - b) Foolish – Foolish desires represent a believer who is so driven to become rich that they no longer are guided and directed by the Word of God they know.
  - c) Harmful desires – Because striving daily after riches dominates these believer’s mindset and passions and that the love of money is the “root of all sorts of evil;” this desire creates traits that destroy the believers’ spiritual growth. It can also ruin their marriages, their child’s proper development, and their health, with foolishness leading to their demise.
  - d) Plunge them into ruin and destruction - Chasing after riches pulls a person down like a sinking tanker into the deep, meaning riches can create foolishness in our hearts, become a trap where a believer finds it impossible to escape from, as well as create harmful desires that lead to uncertainty and doubt.
  - e) Sorts of evil – Sort of evil means riches can literally destroy a person’s character – Solomon.
  - f) Wander away from the faith - Chasing after riches can be destructive because it can create an eager desire that stretches a believer to no longer remain steadfast, fully trusting the Lord with a surrendered heart and mind.
  - g) Pierce themselves with many griefs – The love of money creates severe wounds on a believer, causing them to experience anxiety, distress and excruciating despair and anguish.

## E. Of Hate ... Love Heals, Hate is Destructive (1 John 3:11-12):

1. You should love – John is instructing these believers to willfully, based on the scriptures, sacrificially (3:16-18) have the readiness of mind to serve each other's need. John has already stated that to not do such is to live in darkness (2:9-10) purposefully choosing to not work in the light (1:5-7) thus not displaying the character of God who is love (4:7-11).
2. Not as Cain who was of the evil one – Cain was possessed (genitive) by Satan to create injury and distress towards his brother Abel (Gen. 4:1-8).
3. Deeds were evil – His daily life was executed with a desire and commitment to allow Satan to influence his decisions and actions so that it created injury and distress to those around him. In other word he was a deceitful miserable person to deal with each day.
4. His brothers were righteous – His own brother who never did anything to hurt Cain lived a life committed to the standards of God. He was committed to live by faith (Hebrews 11:4) fully surrendered to the will of God. He demonstrated his faith by his works (Romans 4: James 2:14-26).
5. His brothers were righteous – Cain did not make it to the Hall of Faith so Abel conquered death.
6. Hate versus righteousness – Hate led to the influence of Satan while love led to the Hall of Faith.