

## Satan's Evil Tricks

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.” -Matthew 24:23-24 (NRSV)

**Trick or Treat?!** We hear those words uttered on October 31<sup>st</sup> by kids dressed up as their favorite character, superhero, or athlete. I can remember my cousin Shawn and I dressing up as the California Raisins in a wool suit with only openings in the eyes. And I think that it was the hottest night in October. I'll never do that again.

In Matthew, Jesus is issuing a warning to avoid any type of false prophet or anyone that may lead us astray in our relationship with God. He's telling us not to fall for the tricks of Satan. Satan likes to take the words of Christ and twist and turn them like a Tootsie Roll and have us deciding if those are the same words that Christ spoke to us. **Manipulation** is like Satan's favorite M&M's.

Any type of false messiah or prophet is therefore the hands of the enemy of God. Repeatedly, Christ is telling us of this warning to avoid any false messiah or prophet because he foresaw that many people would have an interest in this type of news because it would devastate our faith and obedience to his teaching. **Satan's evil tricks stirs up controversy, devours our interest in negativity, and eventually leads us away from our walk with Christ.**

Satan's number one task is to lead as many people as possible away from the truth that is found only in Jesus Christ. Remember, Satan has been in this business for a long, long time. Satan knows just what to put in our basket of goodies not only during Halloween but every day in between. Satan has been at this work from Genesis to Revelation.

**We must remember to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.** While Satan is showing us only what we want to see and tell us what we want to hear, we must keep our eyes on Jesus so we can't fall for Satan's evil tricks. May we turn our eyes upon Jesus who is our Messiah and our Lord!

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.**

Grace and Peace,

+Pastor Ben