**THE DECEPTION OF LUST**

Sunday School Lesson 12

*Deceptions of the Devil*

Ephesians 4:22

11/14/2021

**Introduction:** For our final lesson on the deceptions of the Devil, we are going to be looking at the deception of lusts. As we conclude this study, let’s first be reminded of the deceptions that have been considered. We have been warned about the deception of other gods, reaping, wisdom, hearing, pride, the last days, unrighteousness, the tongue, alcohol, riches, good words, and now lusts. When Christians hear that word lust, their minds often immediately go to a very narrow definition of what they think the word means. Most associate it with lasciviousness or something to do with physical relationships. The definition of lust, though, is simply a longing desire. It is an eagerness to possess or enjoy. It does not matter what the object of the desire is. Limiting the definition of lust to only being a strong desire between two people does a great disservice to what the Bible wants us to learn about ALL of our desires of the flesh. The Bible wants us to understand that the strong desires (lusts) that we have are deceitful. Our lusts have corrupted all of us, and they actively work to deceive us. It was the lust of Eve in the Garden of Eden that led to her deception and the fall of man. She had a great desire for the fruit which she was commanded not to eat. How do are lusts deceive us, and what can we do about them? Let’s find out in the lesson this morning!

1. **THE DECEPTION OF LUST TELLS US THAT IT IS OF THE FATHER.**
2. **Notice that all that is in the world is not of the Father but of the world (1 John 2:16).** Do we understand that the lusts of the flesh and the eyes do not come from the Father? This means that mankind cannot blame God or validate their behavior by claiming that God has instilled such desires inside of them. I believe the Bible shows us that God made man with the desire to serve Him as a creature serves and obeys his Creator. The only need we find that man had in the garden was a need for further companionship, which was solved with the creation of a helpmeet for Adam. Where do we get the idea that God created us to have all of these earthly desires? Do we not realize that these desires we have are a result of our imperfect state? When the world is destroyed, lust will be destroyed with it. What possible wants and desires will remain for the saints of the Lord in the new Heaven and earth? We will want nothing. It will be enough just to be in the presence of the Lord continually. We must not allow our sinful flesh to deceive us into thinking that the desires of the old man align with what the Lord wants. Our lusts come either from our sinful flush or from our eyes in this world. They do not come from God above.
3. **Notice that our lusts stand in direct contradiction to the will of the Father (Mark 4:19; 1 Peter 2:11; 4:2-3).** This is why unregenerate man cannot please the Father. Our flesh stands in direct contradiction to the Spirit of God and His will. It’s not just that our desires are not from the Father. We must understand that those desires stand in opposition to what He wants. There are many who think that they can please God of themselves because they are good people who want to do right. They justify themselves through their own motives. We cannot be justified through our motives. We speak of those who are well-meaning in their intent but are still lost. Can such a person exist? I believe the answer is no. The Word of God tells us that the lusts of our flesh are at war against God. That means that our wants are going to run opposite of what He wants. It does not matter if you are a religious person or not. It does not matter if you claim piety or not. The Bible is clear in revealing that what we want cannot possibly be in harmony with what He wants. As we consider this as believers, let’s understand that being a child of God does not automatically mean that our desires are now in alignment with the will of the Lord.
4. **THE DECEPTION OF LUST TELLS US THAT IT IS NOT REALLY OUR OWN.**
5. **Notice that one of our greatest struggles is in doing what we want to do (2 Timothy 4:3; Romans 1:24; Psalm 81:12; Jude 16-18; 2 Peter 3:3; 2:18).** The Bible emphasizes that lusts are most often are own. Why is this emphasis needed? It’s probably needed because we do not want to admit it. We like to do what we want to do. That is true of every single person in this world. I’ve seen young people who may do what somebody else wants them to do for a while, but ultimately they come around to doing what they want to do at some point. It just does not last. Men walk after their own lusts. This means that they follow after their own strong desires. That is what leads them. They do what they want to do, and they get what they want and are able to get. The Bible warns us that this will only get worse and worse as we get further into those last days. Every man doing whatever his heart leads him to do. What is it that prevents sinful men from doing extreme acts of wickedness in this world? If it were tolerated by society, mankind would do anything that comes from his own heart’s desire.
6. **Notice that our lusts don’t want to claim ownership because of where they lead us (James 1:14; 1 Timothy 6:9; John 8:44; 2 Peter 1:4).** We do not like to claim ownership of our lusts because we know what the Bible says. We know that doing what we want is a bad recipe to follow. It will not lead to victory in our lives. It will only lead to defeat. It will only lead to destruction and death. We are led away of our own lusts, though. We cannot claim it to be the fault of another. When we are led away by our desires, we sin and bring on its consequences. Have you ever had to have something so bad, but then you received it and realized that it was not good for? It was not what you needed. It only caused you difficulty and trouble. The Bible shows us that this is the end result to ALL of our fleshly lusts. Every single one of those strong desires ends in trouble. We’d like to go back in those situations and claim that we did not really want that thing, but it’s too late by that point. The damage is done, and the truth is certain. Have we grasped yet the problems with our lusts? They aren’t good, and they don’t end well!
7. **THE DECEPTION OF LUST TELLS US THAT SATISFACTION VALIDATES ITS WORTH.**
8. **Notice that the issue is not whether we get what we want or not, as we may often get it (Exodus 15:9; Number 11:4; Deut. 12:15-21; 14:26; Prov. 6:26; Matt. 5:28; Rom. 1:27).** The purpose of this lesson is not to show that our lusts will not lead us to satisfaction and some fulfillment. In fact, the opposite is often true. Your lasts will often lead you to exactly what you want. If you lust after a man or woman, you will find one. If you lust after money, you will likely find it. If you lust after fame, you may be able to achieve it. Whatever it is; if you desire it badly enough in this world, you have a decent chance of obtaining it, especially if that desire is combined with heavy labor. This is what makes lusts especially deceitful in its attack against man. It gives us exactly what we want for a season. Yet, we cannot allow this to be validation that we wanted the right thing. Christians can be especially misguided regarding this. They want something, so they think that if they get it, it must be a sign that the Lord wanted them to have it. Perhaps, you got it because you wanted it. You lusted after it. You desired greatly to have it.
9. **Notice that the Lord may even give us what we want or allow us to engage in our lusts for a while (Psalm 81:12; 78:18-30; 106:14; Number 11:34).** The Bible tells us the story of the Israelites while they were in the wilderness. We know that they were fed with manna daily. This was a gift that came directly from the Lord. It doesn’t even need to be said that they should have been thankful for it. Yet, we know that they were not. They wanted something else. They lusted after it. They wanted some other food. Now, we might not think that wanting to eat something else was such a big deal, but it showed that they were following after what they wanted instead of what God wanted for them. The Lord then sent them quail to eat as a result of their lust. I’m sure that the Israelites felt especially validated in requesting something else to eat. After all, they were given exactly what they wanted. If it was the wrong thing, why had God allowed them to have it? I’m sure that line of thinking quickly changed, though, when the Lord plagued the people while the food was still in their mouths!
10. **THE DECEPTION OF LUST TELLS US THAT CHANGE IS OUT OF OUR CONTROL.**
11. **Notice that our lust seeks our service to it, and then it wants to hold us captive (Titus 3:3; 2 Timothy 3:6; 1 Thess. 4:5; Ephesians 2:3; Romans 6:12; 7:7; 2 Peter 2:10).** The Bible speaks of service to our lusts. How many people in this world are servants to their own desires? I would say that a vast majority of people find themselves in such a place. Our desires want us to serve them. They want to be satiated. Of course, they also want to control us. These desires can be for many different things. The items may not even look evil or sinful in nature. After all, the Israelites lusted after quail. Is quail sinful? No, it is definitely not. The problem wasn’t the quail; it was submitting the lust of the flesh. Make no mistake. We all have lusts. It’s not a question of whether they are there or not. It is a question of whether we will serve them or not. Our lusts love to hear us make excuses like *I just can’t help it* or *it’s just who I am.* Those are words spoken by one who has become a slave to his own lusts.
12. **Notice that we should not be waiting for our desires to change. We are to change them through obedience and submission to God (Eph. 4:22; 1 Peter 1:14; James 4:1-8; Titus 2:12; 2 Tim. 2:22; Gal. 5:16-24; 1 Cor. 10:6; Rom. 13:14).** I believe we have confused many new converts by making statements on this topic that are inconsistent with Scripture. When I got saved, my wants did not suddenly change overnight. That sure would be easy if they had! I’ve heard people talk about the Lord changing the desires of their heart. I understand what they are speaking about, but we must be clear with what the Bible says. The way to overcome our lusts is through obedience to God. If we wait for our desires to suddenly just change through some divine work, I guarantee you that we will keep doing what we want. Praise the Lord that we have the Spirit of God given to us upon salvation. He makes it possible for us to truly experience change. Note, though, that the Bible says to walk in the Spirit. Who makes that choice? We have to make that choice. It’s not easy. The flesh will attack. Satan will attack. Resist them!