

Journey Through Mark: Cruel Deception

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 07.14.24



I. Seductive Lies

Key Truth: Be Wary of Self-Deception

II. The Sanhedrin's Self-Deception

Mark 15:1-5

Point: They Believed Their Actions Were _____

III. The Crowd's Self-Deception

Mark 15:6-11

Point: They Believed Their Hope Lay In _____

IV. Pilate's Self-Deception

Mark 15:12-15

Point: He Believed His Choice Was _____

V. Sustaining Truths

Mid-Week Devotion (Take time to pray & respond to the following)

The world is full of seductive lies. Marketing campaigns appeal to our desires, hopes, and fears. Powerful leaders and influencers tell the masses whatever is necessary to keep them placated and entertained. As bad as these examples of deception truly are, there is a greater, more cruel kind of deception—the kind imposed upon oneself.

Be wary of self-deception. The power we have to harm ourselves with error, confusion, and ignorance is significant. The things we believe, say, and do, not only impact our lives but also the lives of everyone around us. Self-deception can lead us down a path of sin and suffering if we allow it. There is another path to walk however, the path of truth.

Followers of Jesus Christ owe their highest allegiance to the truth. Truth is embodied in Our Savior. His desire is for us to be fully committed to His plan and purpose for our lives. When we are, seductive lies lose their power to entice due to God-given, Holy Spirit-empowered discernment.

Do you want God to make you aware of self-deception in your life? Are you willing to see your life as He sees it? Moreover, are you willing to let go of anything and everything that He reveals is incorrect or wrong?

Prayerfully invite God to help you discern truth from lies. Consider how you have been impacted in the past by self-deception. Express your desire to God that He equip you with wisdom. Give thanks and praise to Him that His love for you makes these blessings available whenever you ask. Lastly, commit to being on guard against deception.