Sermon Notes:

The Bible says there’s an ______________________ world that impacts the visible world.

John 8:44  You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan wants to destroy human life and the means by which he does that is to ________________ the truth.

Jesus taught that Satan had been given a limited __________________ over this world.

Luke 4:5-7  The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Isaiah 14:12-14  How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

Satan’s fall occurs when he desires to be the __________________ of everything.

His desire is to get us to want to be the center of everything.
There is more to this world than we can see. Beyond all that we are able to measure and understand is a spiritual world; a world that we can neither see nor touch, yet we feel its impact everyday. We live in a world in which an evil influence exists that deceives us and desires to ultimately lead us on a path of destruction. In this session, we’ll discuss how our lives have become twisted, and we’ll discover the source behind this deception.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What evidence have you seen that we live in an unseen world that impacts what we see and experience?

2. Read John 8:39-45. As Jesus is debating with the Jewish religious leaders, he points to the devil as the source of their deception. What comes to mind when you think about the devil?

3. What do you learn about the devil from Jesus’ words in v. 44? What do you learn about his intentions and his methods?

4. In John 14:30, Jesus refers to the devil as “the prince of this world.” In Luke 4:5-6 the devil claims to have authority over the kingdoms of this world, and Jesus doesn’t argue. Does it surprise you that God has granted the devil temporary influence on the world around us?
   a. How is his influence felt?
   b. Why would God allow this?

5. What are some of the twisted truths that the devil has used to deceive the world?

6. Read Ephesians 6:11-12. We struggle not only against what we can see, but also against unseen forces. How does this fact impact some of the current conflicts that you are experiencing?

THINK ABOUT IT

• How have you fallen victim to twisted thinking in the past? Are there times when you look back and ask, “What was I thinking?” How were you led astray?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

• How will you be intentional this week about trying to see the world truthfully, as God sees it?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

-Ephesians 6:12