

# SERMON OUTLINE James 1:16-17

Do Not Be Deceived, God is Good

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## **DO NOT BE DECEIVED (16)**

*We Are Easily Deceived*

*Being Deceived Is Dangerous*

*Finding and Sharing Truth In Love*

## **GOD'S TWO-SIDED COIN (17)**

*The Two Sides of the Coin (17a)*

*The Coin Belongs to God (17b)*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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Much of James's message was counter to that of the world and of common sense. For those reasons, James felt compelled to warn his readers to be constantly vigilant, constantly on the lookout, for deception. On the one hand, they were vulnerable to being deceived that their trials were in vain and that their temptations were from God, and on the other hand, they were vulnerable to being deceived that good was found in anything but God and that God would give them anything other than good.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Does it seem like you are easily deceived? Why or why not?
3. Where do you go to find the truth? Or, where do you go to get advice when you need it?
4. How many of the things you believe about God, yourself, and the world can you root in God's Word?
5. What happens when God's Word seems to contradict your beliefs or desires?
6. How often do you pray for your pastors and teachers to know and proclaim truth only?
7. In what ways are you actively seeking to root out deception in yourself, your kids, and your church?
8. Is there anyone in your life that has the green light to say anything to you that they think needs to be said, and is spiritually mature enough that it's likely to be true? Is it more likely that a truly godly person who attempted to address some suspected sin in your life would leave feeling welcomed or wounded?
9. When were you most deceived in life? What is the biggest price you've ever paid for being deceived?
10. Do you tend to be deceived more by believing that God gives bad things or fails to give only good things?
11. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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12. Commit to a Bible reading plan this year. Pray through the Bible as you read it, asking God to help you recognize deception.
13. Give one person the green light to tell you in love whatever they think you need to hear. Ask them for it often.
14. Help someone overcome the greatest and most deadly deception of all by sharing the gospel with them this week.
15. Apologize to someone you spoke the truth to without love or someone you (even if unintentionally) deceived.
16. Find one specific aspect of the goodness of God in the Bible and do something specifically because of it.
17. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

## PRAYER POINTS

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18. Adoration. Praise God for a specific aspect of His goodness. Praise God that He never changes. Praise God for being the God of truth. Praise God for giving us His Word, along with His Spirit and people to help us understand it.
19. Confession. Confess any ways you've willingly walked in deception. Confess any ways you've been indifferent to the truth. Confess any ways you've blamed God for your sin or failed to thank Him for His goodness.
20. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He only and always gives good things to His people. Thank God for loving you.
21. Supplication. Ask God to increasingly make us a church that loves truth in order that we may walk in it. Ask God to deliver someone in your life from deception. Ask God to use TLI and ministries like it to train pastors in the Truth.