



KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH!

APRIL 24, 2023

JOHN 18:1-4 NKJV – (1) When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. (2) And Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with His disciples. (3) Then Judas, having received a detachment of troops, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. (4) Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, “Whom are you seeking?”

God creates Satan counterfeits. This simple clue helps unlock a lot of the Bible. Satan is the counterfeit of God. Demons are the counterfeit of angels. The world is the counterfeit of the Kingdom. Lies are the counterfeit of the truth. Demon-possession is the counterfeit of being Spirit-filled.

Working behind all of this religious, legal, and political evil was Satan and demonic forces. Speaking of demons, we learn that “the rulers of this age...crucified the Lord of glory” (1 **Corinthians 2:8**). After failing to destroy and overthrow Jesus in heaven, they repeat their efforts on the earth. At the Passover meal, Satan had already entered Judas Iscariot, the counterfeit disciple: “after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him.” Satan also sought to turn Peter into a counterfeit disciple, and nearly succeeded: “Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers” (**Luke 22:31-32**).

The power in a counterfeit is that it deceives someone into wrongly believing that what they have is real, true, and valuable when in fact it is fake, false, and worthless. For this reason, it is vital that God’s people learn to distinguish that what is created by God versus that which is counterfeited by Satan.

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 JOHN 4:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The truth carries a weight that no lie can counterfeit.