

Satan's Secret Agents

The enemies of Jesus sought often to discredit him in the eyes of the people. One such effort is described in the twentieth chapter of Luke. They "sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor." These spies asked Him if it was lawful to give tribute unto Caesar. The Lord's answer was "Render. ..unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's and unto God the things which be God's."

Your attention is called especially to the description of the men who questioned Jesus. They were spies, which feigned themselves just men. That is, they pretended to be honestly seeking to learn from the Master. One modern language translation puts it in these words: They "sent SECRET AGENTS in the guise of honest men. .." They had the appearance of good men: but they were SATAN'S SECRET AGENTS.

Did you know that Satan has secret agents in the world today; that there are servants of the Devil who pretend to be the servants of righteousness? Are you aware that Satan's secret agents might even put on the appearance of being ministers of the gospel? In II Corinthians 11, Paul described certain men as "false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." Then he gives this explanation: "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. " (II Corinthians 11: 14-15) He says the ministers of Satan take on the appearance of the ministers of righteousness. Satan has secret agents posing as ministers of Christ.

The traditional picture of Satan is of a creature with horns and fiery countenance. Such is not very realistic. Rather, our great adversary appears as an angel of light. Neither is it realistic to think that the men he uses to deceive others would have an appearance which would readily mark them as his servants. Instead, he works through men who are respected and trusted. For instance, many can be deceived and led into error by a secret agent of Satan who is in the guise of a preacher.

There are numerous warnings in the Scriptures against false teachers and their doctrines. The Holy Spirit was fully aware of the deceptive methods by which error would be spread. The following admonition is given through John. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (I John 4:1) God's word says there are many false prophets in the world. We ought, therefore, to carefully examine the things we hear.

Jesus Himself warned against the deceptiveness of false teachers. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." Then He explained how to beware. "Ye shall know them by their fruits." (Matthew 7:15-16) The Scriptures are the standard. Preachers and teachers whose doctrine is not in harmony with God's word are false teachers, no matter how sincere and pious they appear. Beware of Satan's secret agents.