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JUDE

## Contend for the Faith – Part 1

### Jude

***Jude 1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: 2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.***

#### I. Jude

##### a. Jude – Judas - Judah

- i. Introduces himself as a servant of Christ, brother of James
- ii. Brother of James makes him a half-brother to Jesus – a detail Jude leaves out
- iii. Different from - ***Joh 7:5 For even His brothers did not believe in Him.***
  1. In fact, in ***Mark 3:21 But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."***
  2. ***Mark 3: 31 Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. 32 And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers are outside seeking You." 33 But He answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."***
- iv. Possibly why Jude does not make that distinction – whoever does the will of God is Jesus' brother
  1. Something changed for Jude and James – the resurrection – the resurrection of Jesus changes everything – moves Jesus' claims from outlandish to undeniable
  2. His own brothers realized the truth of his claims and became leaders in the early church – didn't simply believe – became *servants* of Jesus – that is what faith looks like

##### b. Audience - To those - Work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- i. Called – work of the Spirit
- ii. Sanctified – Set apart – delivered, rescued, in the world but no longer of the world, distinct from its systems, part of a new Kingdom, and everlasting Kingdom
- iii. Preserved – sustained – kept by Christ
  1. Held by, provided for, protected by Christ and His finished work on the cross – blessed assurance – Paul goes to great length to explain all that we have we are found in Christ

##### c. Jude's desire - prayer

- i. Mercy, peace, love – multiplied

- ii. Mercy is the compassion of Christ, peace is the mindset of Christ, love is the self-sacrificial lifestyle of Christ
  - 1. Filled to the brim – all that you can hold – growing, maturing – grace, upon grace, upon grace
- iii. That is the nature of Jesus – abundant life
  - 1. Miracles – wine, food, paralyzed walk, blind see – picture of the Kingdom
  - 2. Death is His enemy – Paul writes in 1 Cor - *"The last enemy to be destroyed is death."* – Rev 20 - *"Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire."* Rev 21 - Revelation 21 - *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more."*
  - 3. First Easter service I taught – my grandfather was dying and Isaiah had just been born – death where is your sting?
    - a. Hosea - "I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting?"
    - b. 1 Cor – Death is swallowed up in the victory of Christ
- d. Threat to this kind of spiritual growth
  - i. To keep it you must contend for it – this study “who” and next week “how”

***3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.***

- II. Contend for the Faith
  - a. Beloved – dear friends
    - i. Care and concern (already to a contrast of what comes next)
    - ii. I wanted to write a letter to you celebrating our common salvation
      - 1. Not just a moment in time but salvations work in our past, present, and future
      - 2. That’s what I wanted to do – but I had to lay that aside and be faithful
  - b. I found it necessary – Greek word – I discovered something distressing – something urgent
    - i. Jude took Paul’s exhortation seriously – ***Act 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.***
  - c. Jude saw a threat to the faith, a threat to the message – threat to the abundant life available through Christ – struggle, battle, fight, exert concentrated effort to keep
    - i. The church has been created and ordained by God to carry the message of salvation through Jesus Christ – to both show and tell – we are not called to force it on anyone or to fight to impose it on anyone
      - 1. But we must fight to protect it – continue to carry the same message that the early apostles passed down to the church
      - 2. The role of the church resist and bless – resist the lies of this world and bless the people of this world
    - ii. What was this threat? – Jesus taught in Matt 7 - *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from*

*thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit."*

- iii. Unity in the letters of Paul, James, Peter, John, and Jude – really every New Testament letter – what Jesus warned about had come to pass

1. ***2 John 9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; 11 for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.***
2. ***2 Cor 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!***
3. ***Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.***
4. ***Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.***

***4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

- d. Key point – they come to you!
  - i. It isn't deception that's exclusive to the world outside – Certain men have crept in – unnoticed
  - ii. No one walks into a fellowship and introduces themselves as a false teacher who denies Christ and thinks sin is safe
  - iii. They worked themselves into these communities and put themselves in front of the people
  - iv. In this current cultural moment – quite easy to gain an audience with someone
    - 1. People enter our homes without coming in through our front doors
    - 2. We listen to their voices as we get ready in the morning, as we take care of things around the house, as we drive to work – voices are constantly playing in the background
    - 3. What are we to watch out for?
  - v. Jude – these wolves – these men who seek to pervert the truth of the gospel and strip it of its power – we begin to see the characteristics of these men
    - 1. *Men whose end is judgement* (these are not children of God) – *ungodly* – sacrilegious – make evil seem normal and righteousness seem strange
    - 2. With them, they carried a different message, a false gospel
      - a. Turn grace into a license to sin

- i. With Paul – the false teachers were drawing people into a life of legalism – returning to the law – faith and works
    - ii. Jude – these false teachers taught because of God’s grace there is no need for self-control – if you want it, go for it
  - b. Along with that – deny the exclusivity of Christ – called Jesus as liar
- vi. That is the danger – what happens when followers of Christ look nothing like Christ? All tell and no show
  - 1. Warning against false teachers that strip away the purity and power of the church
  - 2. Characteristics of not only false teachers but behaviors we adopt when we lose sight of Christ

***16 These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. 17 But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. 19 These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.***

### III. The Anatomy of a False Teacher

#### a. Keep an eye out for..

- i. Grumblers – passive aggressive complaining - cowardly complaining – constant issues with the way things are – everything viewed through a lens of negativity – sin sniffers
- ii. Complainers – never satisfied with one’s lot in life, the constant victim – everyone else is to blame – “if I were making the decisions”
- iii. Irony is they are driven by their own sinful desires – they are quick to point out the faults in others but cannot begin to see the faults in their own lives
- iv. Swelling words - Extremely high view of self – make sure everyone knows
- v. Flatter others – not to build up – but to take – to get what they want
- vi. Mockers – ***2 Peter 3:3 knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”***
  - 1. Call into question the trustworthiness of God and His Word – did God really say? Did he really mean...? Look around – how can that be true? Sow doubt where there should be certainty
- vii. Walk according to their own ungodly lust, they do not have the Spirit
  - 1. Instead of building up they cause divisions, they tear down, they damage relationships
  - 2. That is the consistent theme – they are their own god – they are *sensual* meaning *natural*, worldly, but they make their way into the church to get instead of give

***12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands***

***of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”***

#### IV. Why Do People Listen?

- a. Clouds without water (we are all too familiar with those in Phoenix)
  - i. Appear to bring life, but the rain never comes – clouds without rain only serve to block out the sun
  - ii. ***Prov 25:14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.’***
    - 1. Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, were part of the early Christian community, where believers shared their possessions. They sold a piece of property and kept back part of the money while pretending to donate the full amount to the apostles.
    - 2. They both fell dead
- b. Trees without fruit
  - i. With both of these – there’s an appearance and anticipation of something good – but that never comes – it is all for show
  - ii. Easier more today than it ever has been before to keep the act going – to move to another community – to fool another audience
- c. Raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame – ***Isaiah 57: 20 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt.***
  - i. Phil 3: 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.
- d. Wandering stars
  - i. Stars are predictable – because of that the night sky was used by travelers both on land and on sea - In the Northern Hemisphere, the North Star was crucial because it remains nearly fixed in the sky, indicating true north.
  - ii. But what if the north star wandered – it would be detrimental to all who followed it

#### V. Sunken Rocks

- a. Stains in your love feasts – Another translation is “sunken rocks” – hidden dangers – both are accurate
  - i. Love feasts – potluck – church would come together and share what they had – the poor would eat like kings
    - 1. They would share in the Lord’s Supper together
  - ii. Glimpse into the Kingdom of Heaven – no poor, no rich, no slave, no freeman, no division by age, or race, or education
    - 1. One body – serving one another – sharing with one another – celebrating what Christ has done for all of them
    - 2. In the midst of that – Paul tells us in 1 Cor 11 – the Lord’s Supper was being dishonored – cutting line, taking more than necessary, getting drunk – appears that the wealthy were doing this!
  - iii. ***1 Cor 11:22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.***

iv. *Without fear - 1 Cor 11: 27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. 33 Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. 34 But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.*

- a. They take something is Holy and Sacred and make it about them
  - b. When we make our gatherings about ourselves then they no longer look like the Kingdom of Heaven, they look common and worldly
  - c. This can be applied to our worship, our time in the Word, our small groups, our conversations before and after the service
- b. *serving only themselves* - These "Certain Men" serve only themselves
- i. Serving – Poimen – shepherd – where we get our word pastor
    - 1. They pastor themselves – *Eze 34:8 "As I live," says the Lord God, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"—9 therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the Lord! 10 Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them."*