

Did Jesus Really Say That?

False Teachers & False Profession - Part 1

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Message

We are in a sermon series titled, “Did Jesus Really Say That?” and we are looking at some of the controversial and challenging statements that Jesus made during his ministry. And tonight I want to look at one of those statements as our foundational passage and I invite you to turn to Matthew 7:15-20. When you’ve found that, I would encourage you to turn to the book of Jude, because this is where we will be using the letter of Jude as our message today.

Read Matthew 7:15-20

Pray

We will be doing something a little different this morning with our passage here in Jude and I want to read the passage to you but will be stopping along the way to make some remarks and if you’re a note taker, I would encourage you to take out your notes and follow along.

Summary of Jude – Jude was more than likely a brother of Jesus and the letter that he wrote here is one of the most severe and harshest letters in all of the NT. Basically what was taking place is that False teachers had infiltrated the churches of the early believers, and when Jude heard of this, he was compelled to write a letter to them which was both a warning and an encouragement to the believers to contend for the faith!!!!

So let’s start reading our passage and see what jumps out at us here today..

Begin Reading Jude 1-25

Read vs. 1-3

Let me ask 2 questions here:

1. Q: Why is contending for the faith so necessary in our lives as believers?

In verses 1-19 he explains or implies WHY we should struggle or contend or fight to preserve the doctrine that we have. He tells us that contending for the faith is necessary because

a. Our faith tells of our full salvation – now and in the future – our faith tells the story from our rebellion to our redemption

b. Our faith is Complete – he says in verse 2 that our faith was given to us once and for all. All that we need has been given!

c. Our faith will be challenged by the opposition of false teachers – and we need to know how to deal with it when the opposition comes! (End times comment?)

2. Q: If contending for the faith is necessary, how do we contend for the faith?

We jump over to vs. 20-25, and it’s here where he gives us 3 ways for us to contend.

a. He tells us first to LOOK INWARD (READ VS. 20-21)

We have to take care of ourselves spiritually. And he tells us that we need to make sure that we are Building ourselves up in the

1. In the Word

2. Through Prayer in the Spirit

3. By keeping ourselves in God’s love

4. And by keeping Hope alive by waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring us into eternal life!

b. He then tells us that we are to LOOK OUTWARD (READ VS. 22-23)

We have certain responsibilities to those who are falling away because of wrong teaching.

And it's in these 2 verses where he describes the people that we are to look after

1. we are to look after the Doubters

- These are people who are asking questions; they may be at odds with themselves; and they may be dangling somewhere between 2 or more opinions about the faith.

2. Then we are to look after the Dabblers

- These are people who have Gone further than doubting & questioning; they are actually playing with fire. Engaging in the thinking and lifestyle of the false teachers.

And without being offensive or insensitive, we are instructed to save them/snatch them from the fire.

3. And then 3rd, He tells us that we are to look after those who are deceived

- these are people who are Fully involved in the false doctrines – maybe even the leaders or teachers!! But we better make sure we are full of mercy and full of truth as we address those who are deceived. (we want to make sure that we don't get sucked in to what they believe!)

And then the 3rd way that we can contend for the faith is by LOOKING UPWARD (READ VS. 24-25)

Friends, we have to Keep our eyes fixed on the great future that God has promised us. GOD IS ABLE!

Alright, let's keep on reading our text here today...

(Read verse 4)

There are 3 parts in this verse that I think we should pay attention to.....

1. The first part is where Jude tells the believers that there are men (false teachers) who have "Secretly slipped in among you" - Well how in the world does anybody just secretly slip in among a group of people? I think there are a couple of ways....

a. They present themselves as someone who is just like the rest of the group – they talk like the group, they walk like the group, they dress like group, they make friends with other group members, and they disguise themselves as just another....."sheep", But what did Jesus say about them? In our first text this morning, Jesus said that we are to "WATCH OUT for they will come to us in sheep's clothing but inwardly they ARE ferocious wolves!" Friends listen, satan is deceptive – he's the great deceiver and he will find a way to slip in among us in order destroy us! Paul says it like this in Galatians 5:7 – "You were running such a great race, but WHO CUT IN ON YOU and KEPT you from obeying the truth!?!?" It's false teachings!! It's deceivers!!

b. Another way that someone can "secretly" slip in among us is by having help from the inside. Someone who is already part of "the group" brings in these false teachers and helps them to lead others astray. Paul warns the Church in Ephesus in his farwell address to the Ephesian Elders by saying this.....Acts [20:29](#) "I know that after I am gone ¹fierce wolves ²will come in among you, not sparing the flock. [20:30](#) Even from among your own group ³men ⁴will arise, teaching perversions of the truth ⁵to draw the disciples away after them." We have to be careful of those who "slip in among us..."

2. The second part of verse 4 that we should pay attention to is is where Jude speaks of these men as " Godless Men" Let me run down through his description of these false teachers and I will try to do this in a rapid fire type way....and their description is found in vs 8-16

Godless men are those who:

- Deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord (vs 4) -
- Dreamers (vs 8) – Here the Greek Word for "dream" implies that the teachings of these false teachers are simply part of their made up, imaginary, fantasy land dreams!! When you and I have dreams, rarely do they make any sense.....and the same is true for the teachings by these false teachers! False teachers often claim that their dreams are of divine origin, and are therefore authoritative. Such a claim allows the false teachers to substitute

their own counterfeit authority for God's authority, which is of course the only true authority. The false teachers' hearers are often sucked in to believe what the false teachers are saying. In the Old Testament, the term "dreamer" was virtually synonymous with a false teacher, as in Moses' warning in Deuteronomy 13:1-5: 1. *"If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst."*

III. Now I have to do this as an aside because I think it fits in here perfectly. When false teachers exercise their false authority it presents dangers in the church!! The 4 most common dangers in the life of the church are:

1. Prosperity theology! (Jesus was homeless and instructed us to give everything away!)
2. Pluralistic thinking – We all serve the same god! No we don't!! Acts 4:12 – "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
3. The Power of Positive Thinking – there is room for us in scripture to think positively and to have a good mental attitude. BUT, the danger here is that we need to make sure that we don't boil the gospel message down to just simply thinking positive about everything. It's much more than that!
4. Promiscuous living – Because the false teachers give in to the natural and evil desires of the flesh, they are going to teach others to do the same thing. And when I speak about promiscuous living, I'm talking about not only sleeping around with whoever, whenever, but I'm also talking about the other areas of loose living of the sexual nature.....For example: Dabbling in pornography – soft or hard core porn. , Flirting and flaunting with a sexual undertone. Engaging in sexual activities outside of the marriage relationship. Promiscuous living is a deceptive trap of satan.....and we can't give in to this danger.

Let's keep going with how Jude describes Godless men

- Pollute their own bodies – they take pleasure in corrupt passions and appetites.
- Reject authority - they regard all government in the state, the church, and the family, as an evil. Advocates for unbridled freedom of all sorts; declaimers on liberty and on the evils of oppression; defenders of what they regard as the rights of injured man, and yet secretly themselves lusting for the exercise of the very power which they would deny to others - they make no just distinctions about what constitutes true freedom, and in their zeal array themselves against government in all forms.
- Slander celestial beings
- They speak abusively against whatever they do not understand
- And the things they do understand, are the very things that destroy them
- Godless men are blemishes, selfish, they are dark clouds w/out rain,
- They are blown along wherever the wind takes them
- They are trees without fruit
- They are grumblers and faultfinders
- They follow their OWN evil desires
- They boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage – they are manipulative!
- They are scoffers and dividers
- And they do not have the Holy Spirit!
- Now, I don't think we have time to read this, but I STRONGLY want to encourage you to read 2 Peter 2:1-22 and this will really speak even more in depth as to who the false teachers truly are!!

3. and then the 3rd part I want us to look at is where Jude uses the phrase 'these are godless men **"who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality....."** What Jude is saying here is that these men practice and teach cheap grace! Basically, cheap grace is knowing that what we have done or are presently doing is sin, but because we know God will forgive us we keep on doing what we know is wrong. Pauls tells us in Romans 6:1-2 – "What shall we say, then? Shall

we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those (believers) who have died to sin; how can we live in sin any longer?"

III. Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book titled, *The Cost of Discipleship* says this about Cheap Grace. **Cheap grace** is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace **sold on the market** like cheapjacks' wares. The sacraments, the forgiveness of sin, and the consolations of religion are thrown away at cut prices. Grace is represented as the Church's inexhaustible treasury, from which she showers blessings with generous hands, without asking questions or fixing limits. Grace without price; **grace without cost!** The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance; and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing....[45]

Cheap grace means grace as a doctrine, a principle, a system. It means forgiveness of sins proclaimed as a general truth, **the love of God taught as the Christian 'conception' of God.** An **intellectual assent** to that idea is held to be of itself sufficient to secure remission of sins.... In such a Church the world finds a cheap covering for its sins; no contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace therefore amounts to a denial of the living Word of God, in fact, a denial of the **Incarnation of the Word of God.**[45-46]

Cheap grace means the justification of sin without the justification of the sinner. Grace alone does everything they say, and so everything can remain as it was before. **Well, then, let the Christian live like the rest of the world,** let him model himself on the world's standards in every area of life, and not presumptuously aspire to live a different life under grace from his old life under sin....

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, **grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.**[47]

Friends, let me wrap this up here for us today.....every message that I'll share in this series is about what it truly means to follow Christ. And in the context of this message on False Teachers, I want to encourage you to be aware of those who are teaching things that are contrary to the scripture, and who bring danger to the church. And the best way that we can battle against this is to do exactly what Jude tells us to and it is to contend for the faith!!

Pray