

Tough & Tender: A Study of 2 Peter & Jude

Week 7: Fight For The Faith

Message Summary: Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, longed to celebrate God's salvation with his fellow brothers and sisters in the faith. "But I had to write" and tell you to fight! Jude begins. His change-of-course is a blunt reminder that we live in a mixed up world that requires vigilance, courage, and caution. We might wish we could simply share the good news of God's love week after week, but the real world requires more. "I had to" write so that the Church is ready to fight.

- ◆ Jude 1:1 — Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Jude 1:3a,4a — Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write...For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you.

- ◆ Jude 1:16 — These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

- ◆ Jude 1:4b — They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

- ◆ Grace **abounds** when we sin, but it isn't a **license** to sin.

- ◆ Hebrews 10:26-27 — If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

- ◆ Jude 1:3 — Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

- ◆ Faith is God's **gift**, but defending the faith is our **responsibility**.

- ◆ Jude 1:1b-2 — To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: 2 Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

Planting Jesus Roots

GATHER — Name at least three parts of our church service that focuses our attention on what God wants as opposed to what we want. (Hint: There's more than one answer in the Lord's Prayer.)

GROUP -- Evaluate this statement: The best Christian friends are the ones who say things to you that they don't want to say.

GROW -- Take time to slow down and chew on Jude 1:5-19. Which false teachings listed here do you see in our culture today?

GIVE -- St. Peter has seen several new volunteers serving on Sunday. Thank God for their "you first" hearts (and consider if you could join them!).

GO -- Which of your co-workers/neighbors/friends haven't you invited to a church service yet? Make a list and then pray that God would open a door for at least one invitation.

Homework: Jude 1:20-25

Search Words: faith, truth, Christianity