

Sound The Alarm

Jude 12-16

- Jude the youngest of the Lord's brothers has penned a letter warning the Church of the spiritual infiltration from false teachers bent on distorting what Jesus taught, and turning it into a man centered do as you want gospel, and as we've seen haven't much changed from then until now. Today people have very little respect for authority in and outside of the church, speaking freely and evil of anyone in positions of influence, delusionally thinking that the Lord doesn't care what comes out of their mouths therefore they can say anything.

V12-16

- **V12-13** Jude is going to give a vivid description of these false teachers and explain exactly why they are so dangerous to the Church. The early church often met and ate meals together, what we would call a "**potluck dinner**" today, but back then they called them "**love feasts**" or "**agape feasts**". Now when these men showed up instead of seeing the feasts as a way of loving and blessing the flock, they used it as a means to serve themselves
- So Jude called them "**spots**", Peter who wrote his letter just a few years earlier said in **2 Pet 2:13** these men are "**spots and blemishes**" meaning before they showed up it was all love and true fellowship, but after they showed up it became defiled. For instead of adding to the sanctity of the occasion they distracted from it, similarly to Judas at the last supper.
- Jesus is there with those whom He had taught and discipled and would carry on His earthly work after the cross, but before Jesus would give His final instructions He points out that someone there didn't belong > **Jn 13:21-27**- just like the disciples who didn't realize the true character of Judas neither did those in the Church recognize these men's character, wrongly believing that they actually were spiritual. The Greek word used for "**Spots**" can also be translated "**hidden rocks**", the seamen unaware of hidden rocks can quickly wreck the ship.
- Also you see how they feast without fear, in the KJV it translates "**feeding themselves without fear**" the word feeding means "**shepherding**" but in stead of shepherding the flock and caring for the needs of the people these apostates primary concern is to take care of themselves. Israel as a nation had seen this before > **Is 56:10-12**- so what Jude was sharing with them wasn't uncommon or shocking to them. Again what is shocking to me is how they can do all this without any fear of God, it truly shows what an arrogant lot they were.
- He's not finished next he calls them "**empty clouds**" and "**dead trees**" clouds that promise rain but fail to produce are a disappointment to the farmer whose crops desperately need water. These apostates look and give the appearance that the can give spiritual help, they even boast of their abilities, but in the end they are unable to produce > **Prov 25:14**- over promising but underdelivering, as they promise liberty but they can only give bondage.

- **Dead trees**- this is a picture of an orchard in autumn, when the time for it to produce fruit, and the farmer expects fruit, upon inspection it is fruitless, with nothing to give. Math 7:6 says “you shall know them by their fruits” the reason that they are fruitless is because they are rootless, which is why they are twice dead, practically and spiritually.
- **Raging waves V13**- I am not a good swimmer at all, so I’m very cautious in and around water, but I do enjoy sitting by the ocean feeling its breeze and contemplating its grandeur and power. But one thing I certainly don’t enjoy is being in or on the water during a storm, unfortunately I’ve been on the water during a storm and it was truly frightening, you see up close and personal how dangerous those waves can be, and Jude compares the apostates to a “raging wave” because of how dangerous and out of control they are > **Is 57:20**.
- Later he is going to address their mouths in a more direct way, but here he says their shame or the aftermath of their deeds is like the foam of a wave after it returns back to the sea. Finally he calls them “**wandering stars**” he is not talking about fixed stars, or planets, because they have definite positions and orbits, what he is referring to are meteors, falling stars that suddenly appear and then vanish into the darkness never to be seen again.
- Fixed stars can be depended on to guide the traveler through the darkness and onto safety, but wandering stars can only lead you astray. **V6** tells us God has reserved chains of darkness for the rebellious angels, and now here **V13** He has reserved the blackness of darkness forever for the apostate teacher, so beware of following a falling star, as it might seem to be shining brightly but in the end it can only lead you into darkness.
- **V14-15** Jude quotes Enoch a man described in Genesis 5 and mentioned in the hall of faith in **Hebrews 11**, in opposition of these men we see a man who feared God, so much so that scripture says “he Walked with God” which means he fellowshiped with the Lord, he communed and spoke to God, speaking of intimacy and then one day God just took him up.
- This man spoke of impending judgment upon the wicked and ungodly, he had a healthy reverence for the Lord and His people, as he knew no one would get away with disobeying the Lord, whether that meant speaking evil of Him and His Word, or living life on their own terms, all would have to answer for their deed and their words.
- **V16** Jude saved the best for last, for when summing up these apostates is, their just a bunch of grumblers and complainers. Jude points out that the source, the very root in which they catch people all revolved around their words. In order to get people not to pay attention to their questionable lives they would convince the people with their words, an example of this is when they would come around they’d start to murmur and complain, this would cause a chain reaction, and before long everyone is dissatisfied with something.

- The children of Israel was judged for their complaining > **1Cor 10:1-10**, and Christians are commanded not to complain **Philp 2:14-16**, because it may start as something mildly innocent, but it will end with a conscience full of regret, for instead of taking these things to the Lord the murmurer will have you believing that you and they have the answers. Reading these things we are amazed how people are falling for these things, but **1Pet 2:18**- says its by great swelling words they lead people astray flattering and manipulating them.
- Apostates and false teachers aren't just in the pulpit, they're in the congregation, at the grocery store, inside homes, at your jobs, in the media, their everywhere. Which is why Jude wrote this letter, so we can recognize when someone is using words to try and get you to become dissatisfied with where the Lord has you, as the Lord is a great communicator, He will speak to you about you, and will tell you who and where to go, we go astray when we get outside of what God's Word says and begin to listen to man's voice and not God's voice.