

Jude 1:20-23

Announcements

- Pop-up baptisms - today **after third service**... jump in or cheer on, people!
- Men's Conference (final push) - and Friday fireside (register EOD today!)
- Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles/Booths) - one of three **pilgrimage feasts** commanded in Leviticus 23 - **OT**, 7 days, temporary shelters, 40 years of wanderings - **final fall harvest** (feast of ingathering (Ex 23) **end of harvest**) - **points to Christ's final harvest / ultimate dwelling!**

Please open to **Jude Chapter 1** (need a bible? ...)

- Last time: **Final warning**: Remember Apostle's teachings; last time mockers, soulish vs spiritual
- This time: But **now he turns to us**, **"But you, beloved."** - **"tossed to and fro..."** (Eph 4:14)

Message Title: Rescue Boats

- Repairs in the Harbor (verses 20-21)
- Rescues on the Waters (verses 22-23)

1 Timothy 1:19 - "Which some having rejected, **concerning the faith** have suffered shipwreck..."

- Coast Guard Imagery! (boats are prepared and equipped before the storm arrives...)
- There's a reason verses 20-21 **come before** 22-23... Not selfish Christianity, it's useful!

Repairs in the Harbor (verses 20-21)

V. 20 - **But you**, beloved (dear friends!)

- **But you** - **Contrasting** those who don't have the spirit and live only in the natural...
- **Beloved** (*agapetos*) = clear **direction for the faithful church!**

Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton - dry dock!

- (all four on one slide please)
- One imperative command followed by three **"present participles"** (oreo sandwiched in!)
- Keep yourselves in the Love of God [Father] - **how do we do this? By...**
- (1) Building yourselves in the Most Holy Faith
- (2) Praying in the Holy Spirit [Spirit]
- (3) Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ [Son]

Let's start with the **one main command** of this section (all others = **participles** describing **"how"**)

V. 21 - **Keep yourselves** in the love of God

- Keep (tereo) = "guard, preserve, attend carefully to..."
 - V. 1 = the church | v. 6 = rebellious angels; v. 13 = false teachers (**don't leave it!**)
- Now, **for us** directed at (**the beloved**) as an **active imperative** towards the **love of God**
- **Not earning** His love, **but enjoying and experiencing it!** - **prodigal Son always had it**
- The idea is **remaining in the love** of **the Father**. (not letting the **enemy rip us off** from that)
- John 15:9-10 - "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love**. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and **abide in His love.**" - **picture a campfire** - warmth is there, you benefit if you remain close!

- What moves you away from awareness of God's love? Shame? Busyness? Secret sin? Bitterness? Comparison? What moves you closer? Give us this day our daily bread! Regular connection. Prayer, worship, confession, devotion, communion...

- Sukkot connection:

- Psalm 27:5 - "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion [sukkah]; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock."
- As His children, can anything separate you from the love of God? Live in that truth!

V. 20 - Building yourselves up on your most holy faith

- Slow unseen buildup below the waterline... take to drydock and work on it! repair/rebuild
 - Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God!
- Make note: we're not talking about subjective/emotional belief, but the objective body of truth!
- Jude 1:3 - "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" = most holy faith! (only time used here)
 - your = personal possessive pronoun. The beloved has it! What to do with it...?
- Building yourselves up (epoikodomeo) - "to build upon [a foundation]" - present tense!
- A foundation is meant to be built upon! I received Christ 20yrs ago... great! What's been built since then? Any growth!? Age happens automatically, maturity does not... Build!
- 1 Peter 2:5, ESV - "...you yourselves like living stones are being built up [epoikodomeo] as a spiritual house..." - Peter goes on to announce Christ as the chief cornerstone...
- 1 Cor. 3:10-11, ESV - "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds [epoikodomeo] upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." - Paul goes on... rewards or loss for how we build upon - fire will test!
- Building yourselves up (plural) not just the job of a pastor. Church, let's build one another up!
 - Isolation = bad (and a tool of the enemy) - stir up love and good works!
- Big group on Sunday matters, but so does a small group, 1-1 discipleship, serving, etc...

V. 20 - Praying in the Holy Spirit

- Some say it has to do with praying in tongues or visions, while it's possible, that is not likely
 - (context is king!)
- This stands in deliberate contrast to the false teachers of verse 19... (devoid of the spirit)
- Ephesians 6:17-18, ESV - "...and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..." - armor up!
- Romans 8:9, 26-27, NLT - But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you... and the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will..." - words that cannot be uttered/expressed/spoken = don't know what to say... Hospital parking lot / bad phone call (this is praying dependently, not impressively)
- Praying in the Spirit is submitting my will to His. Re-aligning; understanding, discerning... (not "I want," but "I trust") - learning to listen to the voice of God in prayer...
- **Sukkot connection:**

- John 7:37-39 - "On the last day, **that great day of the feast**, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke **concerning the Spirit...**"

V. 21 - **Looking for** the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

- **Waiting for (prosdechomai)** - "to receive and accept the fulfillment of a promise; an eager, expectant waiting..." - **Rapture Return! Redeem!** - Paul to Titus uses the **exact same word**:
- Titus 2:11-13 - "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**" - **Friends, we're not living only for this world or the applause of men!**
- We're not looking for an event, but **a person!** **Future hope fuels present endurance...!**
- **Sukkot connection:**
- Rev 21:3-4 - "Behold, **the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell [tabernacle] with them**, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away..."
- **Friends, look up for our redemption draws near!** Could be **sooner than we think...**

Friends, don't try to **"get it together first..."** - **The church is a harbor, let the repair work begin!**

- **We're building. We're praying. We're looking. Faith, hope, and love!**
- **Trinity at work: love of the Father, praying in the Spirit, longing for the return of the Son.**
- **The boat is prepped.** Now Jude instructs us to go out and... **help others in need!**

Rescues on the Waters (verses 22-23)

Notice there is no instruction here for the church to retreat and isolate nor panic or become cynical...

(all three on one slide please)

- For some... **showing compassion** (some place the next two as **one group...**)
- Others... **snatching them out fire**
- Others... **with fear, hating garments**
- ***It takes praying in the Spirit to even know which is which and how do I respond...**

V. 22 - On some... **have compassion** (be merciful)

- These are those that **have been impacted by false teachings** and are **weak in faith...**
- **Eleeo** - "to have compassion or mercy; to help one who is afflicted or seeking aid..." - **same word!** As we are **looking for** the **merciful return of our Lord Christ**, we are to **show His mercy to others in the meantime**. **Has Christ shown you compassion? Show it to others!**
- **Luke 6:35-36, CSB** - "...love your enemies, do what is good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High. For he is gracious to the ungrateful and evil. **Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.**" - though a different word, same concept...
- **Parable of the Unforgiving Servant!** - **Matthew 18:33, NIV** - "Shouldn't you have **had mercy [Eleeo]** on your fellow servant just as I had on you?"

V. 22 - Making **a distinction** (those who are doubting / faith is wavering)

- **Diakrino** - "doubting, hesitating, or wavering; to separate or make a distinction; to withdraw or desert." - used in v.9 for Michael disputing with the devil. Carries the idea of **dividing/wavering**.
- **Mark 9:24** - **man with son that had an evil spirit** - "Lord, I believe, **help my unbelief!**"
- Could be: **the church distinguishing**, or could be: **the object is wavering (I lean latter...)**
- **Rebellion and doubting** are not the same thing - **throw the life preserver before scolding!**
- Not every person needs **a lecture or yelling** "how could you? Didn't you know?" **Maybe later...**
- Sometimes they just need **someone to sit with them**... Some are **wounded, sacred, confused**.
- **At the same time**, **Lord, help us with our wavering** and help us to be **merciful to others too**.
- **James 1:5-6** - "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting [diakrino]**, for he who doubts [diakrino] is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind..." - **James & Jude both doubted** (John 7:5 "**brothers did not believe**" - Acts 1:14)
- **Romans 4:20-22, NIV** - "Yet he [Abraham] **did not waver [diakrino] through unbelief** regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.'" - **let our church be a place where the struggling can say so, freely!**
- What if someone among us is doubting and weak in faith? **Rescue boats!** - **doubting Thomas!**
- **Romans 14:1, NET** - "Now **receive the one who is weak in the faith**, and do not have disputes [diakrino] over differing opinions..." - **who in your life** is struggling and you've been **criticizing: yelling from the deck** instead of throwing **a life preserver of compassion?**

Now, **some come to Christ** with a **sweet smelling fragrance of the encouraging love of heaven**, **but for others** it takes the **pungent, putrid fumes of brimstone and sulfur as warnings of hell**.

V. 23 - But others... **Pulling them out of the fire! (from false teachings...)**

- Picture a **child running into traffic**. **Same love, but different approach** to rescue. **Yell, grab!**
- This is **not the time** for **softly spoken tender nearness**. It's the time for **radical rebuke (love!)**
- **Harpazo** - "to claim for one's self; to seize or carry off; to snatch out or away!" - **Rapture!**
- **The next reference is not Jude's intended meaning, but helps create a bigger picture...**
- **1 Thess 4:13-18, NIV** - "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope... According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep [already died]. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, **we who are still alive and are left will be caught up [harpazo] together with them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with **these words!**" - long story short, **God has a plan for His people! Those who have died already and a future generation who will not taste death. Raptured away!**
- **Jude** is telling us **just as Christ will come to carry us away**, so should we, **while we're still here**, for **those struggling in doubt and trapped by this world... fire/flames of judgment**
- **2 Tim 2:23-26, NIV** - "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will

come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." - do you care about such things? God's heart in the matter (Titanic lifeboats!)

V. 23 - ...save (rescue) [them] with fear!

- This is the caution a rescuer needs as a drowning person can pull you under in panic...
- Galatians 6:1, NLT - "Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly [spiritual] should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself."
- Love the sexually broken, but be careful not to redefine sexual holiness.
- Minister to the person struggling in drunkenness, but maybe not join them at the bar every night.
- Walk with the skeptic, but be careful it doesn't weaken your faith (Quran, Book of Mormon, etc)
 - Certain mission trips I would not bring a younger believer...

V. 23 - Hating even the garment defiled (stained) by the flesh (hating the sins that contaminate them)

- Excessive weight can pull people under (remove the jacket!) I love you, hate the addiction.
- Soft hearts, without soft convictions. Love the person, hate the sin that is destroying them.
 - This is where Christians get it wrong (hate the sinner), and/or get misjudged (bigot)
- Zechariah 3:1-4, NLT - "Then the angel showed me Jeshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. And the Lord said to Satan, 'I, the Lord, reject [rebuke] your accusations, Satan. Yes, the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire.' Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel. So the angel said to the others standing there, 'Take off his filthy clothes.' And turning to Jeshua he said, 'See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes...'" Jude appears to be quoting! - a call back to verse 9 as well... "Lord rebuke you"
 - Rescuing and Redeeming! New clothes = a new life!
- Rev 3:4-5 - "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels..." - though a different word, same concept...

CONCLUSION:

God, speaking through Jude here, is caring for you and asking you to care for those around you...

- Island of Malta - Acts 27-28 - Warning given, ship broken, all brought safely to shore...

Some day we go to that great shore of heaven... He who sits on the throne dwells among them!
Living fountains of water... and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes... (Rev 7:15-17)

Harvest is plentiful and laborers are few. And the time of true sukkot is coming soon, friends...

- Maybe you need repairs in the harbor - slow leaks, slow drifting... be honest, ask for prayer.
- Maybe someone you love is caught in a rip current - don't merely criticize from a distance. Pray, be merciful, speak the truth in love, trust that no one can snatch (harpazo) them away!
- Maybe you're the one who needs rescue - Christ does not stand at distance; he came near!

Plead with the souls of men! - even if none stand - direct them to the table after to grow more...

PRAY