

A Call to Arms: Assemble the Troops

Jude 1-3

Ben Rodriguez's Notes

Introduction: When I say open up to the book of Jude, some of you might think "There's a book called Jude?!". Because it is one of the shortest books of the bible, 25 verses total and one chapter, it is often neglected. Many are more likely to remember "Hey Jude" from the Beatles than the existence of the book of Jude.

Donald Guthrie, a theologian, said this however "Its neglect reflects more the superficiality of the generation that neglects it than the irrelevance of its burning message."

Bible teacher David Guzik agreed saying "These shorter letters of the New Testament are often neglected, but the neglect of this important letter says more about us than it does about the Book of Jude"

Both of them are right. The Bible teaches us that ALL SCRIPTURE is inspired by God, not just the bigger books. Daniel is the shortest of the major prophets, but no one questions it's importance. Mark is the shortest of all the gospels, and you don't see anyone saying we shouldn't study it.

In fact these shorter books are sometimes the ones we need to hear about the most. And in the day and age we live, the book of Jude is incredibly relevant. Jude is calling Christians to assemble for battle, and go to war.

The Officer: JUDE

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, Verse 1a

Who is Jude? His actual name is Judas, but it's been translated as Jude to avoid confusing him with a rather infamous character called Judas Iscariot. In fact there were 6 other Judas' in the new testament. So who is the writer here? The evidence points us that he is James' brother, therefore this is the half-brother of Jesus.

Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? -
Mathew [13:55](#)

Much like James, Jude did not believe in Jesus till post resurrection.

Notice this though, just like James, though he could've thrown around the weight that he was blood related to the Savior, he chose to call himself a bond-servant. This shows us that Jude was a man of humility, and a man of submission.

Even though he was one of the leaders of the church and a blood relative of Jesus, he knew who really was in charge. Though Jude is the officer, his commands came from Jesus the Captain. Jude is a great example of someone who knows that his authority lies on been under the authority of Jesus.

The Troops: US

To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: 2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. Verse 1b-2

So who is Jude writing to? Christians. It is a generic epistle, though it is believed that he is writing to the same people Peter

wrote to. But Jude doesn't really specify a location. No doubt because his message is one for not just that moment, but for all time. This isn't an evangelistic message. Jude is speaking to Christians a hard message, some of which people might not want to hear, but must hear it anyway.

Jude is calling the army to assemble, and look how he describes the troops.

those who are called: A person becomes a Christian because God has called them. Now the Bible teaches us that God is calling all men to salvation, but only some respond. What makes one person called and one not? Simple, one responded to God's call and the other didn't. Salvation begins in the heart of God, but man must respond to that call in order to be saved.

sanctified by God the Father: despite popular belief, you don't need the Pope to tell you if you are a saint. A saint is merely someone who is set apart, someone who has been separated from the rest for a special purpose and plan. If you have responded to God's call, then you have been made a Saint, you have been specifically set apart for a special plan. You have been set apart from the world, and set apart for God for His special plans for you.

preserved in Jesus Christ: This means to be carefully watched and guarded. You don't need to fear because Jesus is watching over you, guarding you. He is preserving you for glory. When you walk through your daily life, you should walk knowing you have the greatest guardian and protector around, the best body guard you could have. Doesn't mean be stupid and jump in front of cars or shove your head into a crocodile or something like that, but as you go through your daily life, walking with the Lord, you can walk in confidence that He is protecting, guarding and keeping you from stumbling.

Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you: He greets them very similarly to Paul, by telling them to have mercy, peace and love. However Jude wants it to be multiplied. See as Christians, as soldiers in God's army, is not that we should be adding a bit of mercy, a bit of peace, and a bit of love, to our lives, but that these three should be ever present and continually growing and multiplying in our lives. The same way a soldier should be getting better with his weapons and gear, we should be multiplying in mercy, peace and love.

The Mission: CONTEND

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. v3

Jude mentions something interesting here, he mentions how he wasn't planning on writing this letter. He was going to write a calm devotional about salvation. But something happened. The Spirit of God put on Jude's heart not to talk about salvation, but to sound the trumpets and call the troops to battle.

I think most bible teachers can sympathize with Jude though. There are things we love to talk about....and there are things we rather skip. But to skip certain things because they are uncomfortable would make us unfaithful disciples. We are called to teach "the whole counsel of God", not just the nice parts. Jude was faithful to write what needed to be written, so should we, as Christians, be willing to say what needs to be said, even if it is unpopular.

Another thing we see here is he says the term "Common Salvation". He is not saying that salvation is something normal and not special, because that's not the case. The word there means

"community" or "mutually shared". Salvation isn't different for different people. ALL OF US are saved the same way. Doesn't matter if you have a lot of money or little money, a big house or small house, doesn't matter if you are white, black, or indigo, we are all saved the same way.

"Upon other matters there are distinctions among believers, but yet there is a common salvation enjoyed by the Arminian as well as by the Calvinist, possessed by the Presbyterian as well as by the Episcopalian, prized by the Quaker as well as by the Baptist. Those who are in Christ are more near of kin than they know of, and their intense unity in deep essential truth is a greater force than most of them imagine: only give it scope and it will work wonders."
(Spurgeon)

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.
v3

Despite wanting to have a sweet devotional about this salvation we all share, Jude found himself writing to exhort, to motivate individual Christians to get up, and fight for their faith, to go to battle against the forces of evil. Why? Because it was "needful" just like Jude said. This is the message we don't necessarily want to hear, but we need to hear. Jude is sounding the trumpets of war, with a message that is very relevant for today.

We need to realize that though the church is called to defend the faith, that calling is really an individual one for every believer. The word **contend** comes from the Greek word used to refer to the wrestling mat and means to "agonize". The idea that Jude is bringing across, is he is exhorting the other Christians to wrestle, to work hard, and to labor in the defense of the Christian faith.

The words "**contend earnestly**" carry the meaning of a continual

thing. So it's not that we defend the faith one day, and then chill the next. It means we must always be ready and able to fight in the defense of our faith. Why does this sound familiar? Because two other guys used very similar language for this!

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; - 1 Peter [3:15](#)

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. - 1 Timothy [6:12](#)

It is a biblical command for all Christians to be ready, to be able, and to work hard in the defense of the faith that they have. There is no place for lazy soldiers. You might not like to be called a soldier, but you are.

In Israel, it is mandatory to be part of the militia, meaning that every citizen of a certain age, must receive military training, serve for a certain amount of time, and be well equipped to defend themselves, their families, and the nation, as it's enemies are all around.

As a christian, whether you like it or not, you have been drafted into God's army, and are expected to defend the faith if the battle demands it. Why? Because our faith is valuable.

If you walked in to an art gallery, or a museum, but you noticed there were no guards, no protective glass, no cameras or alarms, you would take an educated guess that there wasn't anything really valuable in there. The same is true for our faith.

If we really are part of God's family, our faith will be valuable to us, and we will gladly defend it with great energy and zeal. You can tell

how valuable someone's faith is to them, based on how willing they are to defend it.

The Faith we are fighting to defend isn't our personal faith, but the essential beliefs of Christianity that all Christians hold to. The very foundational beliefs that we stand on. We aren't fighting for if we should use electric guitars, pan de agua, or videos, but about the central beliefs of Christianity, that Jesus is God, that Jesus died for sin, and that Jesus rose for sin. That is what we must defend. The faith that was given once and for all.

"There is no other gospel, there will be none. Its content will be more fully understood, its implications will be developed, its predictions will be fulfilled; but it will never be supplemented or succeeded or supplanted." (Erdman)

How can we contend for the faith? Here are a few practical ways you can fight the good fight of the faith like Jude is asking us.

- Be a faithful witness in your lifestyle

- Give out tracts and be evangelistic

- Preach the gospel and support through prayer and finances those who do it as a job.

- Support missionaries and faithful pastors

- Engage your fellow students and coworkers, be ready with good evidence and resources to help people who need it.

- Study a few apologetic arguments, and consistently study your bible so you are ready to share if the faith is under attack

- Don't financially support ministers who preach a false gospel

- Separate from people who say they are Christians but are living in sin with no repentance

- Stand for what is biblical and true, not what is necessarily comfortable

If our Faith is truly precious to us, we will respond to Jude's call to

defend it. When our very foundations are been attacked, we need to be ready to give an answer, to fight for our beliefs, to contend for the Faith.

Let me close with these applicational questions for tonight.

Are you living today as someone who has been called, separated, and protected? Do you go through your daily life realizing that the Lord has called you into His kingdom, separated you for His work, and that you are under His protection?

Are you contending for the faith? Are you working earnestly, making sure you are ready to give an answer, and fighting the good fight of the faith?

Is the Faith your faith? Do you know and believe the basic beliefs that are the foundation of all Christians regardless of denomination?

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

This is the faith we are to defend, is it yours? Are you defending it earnestly? Let it not be said of us that we were unfaithful soldiers, let us respond to Jude's call to assemble the army, and be ready to defend our faith at any moment for the honor of our king and

general, Jesus.