

WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



NOVEMBER 23, 2025

THE MERCY OF GOD'S WARNINGS

JUDE 5-10

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

THE MERCY OF GOD'S WARNINGS

JUDE 5-10

God's Past Judgments Warn Us

False Teachers Follow the Same Path

Destruction Awaits Those Who Reject Truth

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Jude again and compare it to 2 Peter Chapter 2!

DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

NOVEMBER 23: ACTS 15-16
NOVEMBER 24: GALATIANS 1-3
NOVEMBER 25: GALATIANS 4-6
NOVEMBER 26: ACTS 17-18:18
NOVEMBER 27: 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
NOVEMBER 28: ACTS 18:19-19:41
NOVEMBER 29: 1 CORINTHIANS 1-4

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY MEETINGS

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, our Wednesday Night Ministry Meetings and Friday Prayer will not meet this week. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

BOXES OF LOVE

Thank You to all who supported our Boxes of Love Ministry! Because of your generosity, Bell Creek donated boxes of food and certificates for turkeys to 150 families in our surrounding area!

ETHICS SEMINAR

Have you ever wondered what the Bible has to say about tough issues like war, abortion, sexuality, politics, and more? Are you interested in learning how to apply Scripture to our daily lives and think biblically about tough issues? Ethics touches on every aspect of our lives, and it is essential that we as Christians learn how to apply Scripture to today's world. Join Pastor Dylan for our Ethics Seminar on Sundays during the 11:00 AM service to learn more!

NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY CLASS

Pastor Dylan's New Testament Theology Class meets on Sundays at 6:00 in the Prayer Room. We will begin our study in Peter's Epistles.

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING AND DINNER EVENT

Bell Creek's 3rd Annual Christmas Caroling Outreach & Dinner is Saturday, December 6th. We'll meet at Bell Creek at 4 PM and return from caroling about 6 PM, with dinner (soups) served at 6:30 PM in the gym with some kid's crafts/activities too. We hope you can join us in some way for this wonderful event! Sign up after service in the gym or online by 11/30 for caroling or volunteering. Any questions see Audrey Rodgers.

BETWEEN TWO TREES BOOK STUDY

Our Between Two Trees study will meet Sunday, December 14 at 9:15 AM in the Prayer Room to discuss *The Horse and His Boy* by C.S. Lewis. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Dylan (dylan@bellcreek.org).

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE

SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE

STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

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BELL CREEK
Community Church

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LIVONIA, MI 48154

11.23.2025 Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: The Mercy of God's Warnings

Sermon Text: Jude 5-10

Scripture Reading

“Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.”” (Numbers 14:5–9, ESV)

God's Past Judgments Warn Us

“Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.” (Jude 5, ESV)

Is Jude’s statement surprising to you? How was Jesus the One who saved the people of Israel?

We believe that there is one God, God is three Persons, and each Person is fully God. There is a beautiful harmony between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In simple terms, we could say that the Father commands, the Son accomplishes, and the Spirit applies. The Son of God is often the Active Agent in God’s works. So, regarding the Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt we can see the work of the pre-incarnate Son of God in: The Passover judgments, the pillar of cloud, the pillar of fire, the parting of the Red Sea, the destruction of the Egyptians, the manna which was bread from heaven, the provision of water from the rock which gave life, and the judgment of unbelieving Israelites.

This is why Paul said: “and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:3-4, ESV)

“And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day—” (Jude 6, ESV)

We see a very similar statement in 2 Peter: “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;” (2 Peter 2:4, ESV)

What is going on here?

Both Jude and Peter refer to the rebellion of some spiritual beings (angels) against God, which occurred long ago after God's creation of everything. The Jewish audience Jude was writing to would have immediately recognized this, as it would remind them of Genesis 6, which many Jews at that time viewed as related to angels.

It seems that some fallen angels (demons) were consigned to punishment after their rebellion. Look at Luke 8: “Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.” (Luke 8:30–31, ESV)

It would also have reminded them of a book outside the Bible called 1 Enoch, which uses similar language to describe the judgment on rebellious angels. As we will see, in his letter Jude quotes both Biblical and non-Biblical sources to support his point.

This shouldn't surprise us! The Apostle Paul did the same thing! He directly quotes three well-known Greek writers in the New Testament. In Athens (Acts 17:28), he referenced Epimenides of Crete (“In him we live and move and have our being”) and Aratus of Cilicia (“For we are indeed his offspring”), both famous poets in the Greek world. Later, in 1 Corinthians 15:33, Paul quoted the comic playwright Menander (“Bad company corrupts good morals”). These quotes show that Paul was familiar with Greek literature and used it strategically, not as Scripture, but as culturally recognized truth to support his Biblical message.

Does quoting something mean you're saying it's Scripture? No. Quoting something does not mean full endorsement.

Think of it this way: If I quote C.S. Lewis in a sermon to illustrate a point, I'm not saying everything Lewis wrote is authoritative. I'm saying, "Lewis articulated this truth well, and it helps us understand what Scripture teaches."

Jude appeals to stories his audience already knew, much like a preacher today might reference well-known events, or songs, or Christian authors like C.S. Lewis, because they are familiar and helpful in making a point. Jude uses these sources to illustrate biblical truth, not to add new revelation. He never treats the writings he is referencing as Scripture, only as well-known examples that clarify what Scripture already teaches.

So here in Jude 6, Jude does the same thing. His readers knew these sources. Rather than re-explaining Genesis 6 from scratch, he says, "You know the Enoch tradition about rebellious angels? That's the pattern we're seeing with these false teachers."

“just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.” (Jude 7, ESV)

See Genesis 19. Jude is referencing the story of Lot, the two angels who come to rescue him and his family, and the destruction of the city and people of Sodom.

Jude's main point to them and to us: “These false teachers are like every other rebel in history. They reject God's authority, lead others astray, and judgment is coming. Learn from the past.”

The specific examples (angels, Sodom, or Israel) are given to warn us to avoid the pattern of those who reject God's truth and rebel against Him, because it will inevitably lead to destruction.

False Teachers Follow the Same Path

“Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones.” (Jude 8, ESV)

These false teachers were part of an ancient heresy that believed: Angels created the world mistakenly, that their fallen leader became ruler of the earth, that angels are evil and hostile, and that angels are inferior beings. How is this blasphemous? Angels did not create the world, they are creations themselves! The world is not ruled by their fallen leader while God is off in the distance somewhere, they are far from inferior to human beings, and those who serve the living God are good.

“But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”” (Jude 9, ESV)

Jude is using an illustration here from a work called the “Testimony of Moses” which his audience would have been very familiar with. Again, they did not regard it as Scripture, but it would have been a very familiar story to them, and that’s why Jude uses it to illustrate his point.

Two important lessons for God’s people are here:

1. The spiritual beings are not to be trifled with. 2 Peter 2:11 states, “whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not pronounce a blasphemous judgment against them [the other glorious spiritual beings] before the Lord.” When engaging the enemy, even the angels call on the name of the Lord, saying, “The Lord rebuke you!”
2. We learn an important lesson about how to speak to one another! There is no one in this church we should belittle or talk negatively about. None of us is as evil as Satan, and none of us is as good as the archangel Michael. If the mighty archangel Michael chose to refrain from disparaging the enemy, shouldn’t we also refrain from condemning others?

Destruction Awaits Those Who Reject Truth

“But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.” (Jude 10, ESV)

Jude’s purpose in these frightening illustrations is to reveal the tragic end of proud, unbelieving hearts: “These people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.”

They mock the very truth that could save them! They scoff at realities too glorious for their darkened minds to grasp. And then they are consumed by the lies they trust, the impulses they follow, and the corruption they spread. How horrible... and how humbling!

For those who don’t know Christ yet: If you don’t know Him yet, I encourage you to ask yourself, “Why am I resisting Jesus?” Jude says false teachers “blaspheme what they do not understand.” Could it be that you’re rejecting the gospel not because it’s false, but because it challenges your pride? Are you dismissing Christ without fully listening to Him? Isn’t it possible that what you oppose today is the very truth that could save you?

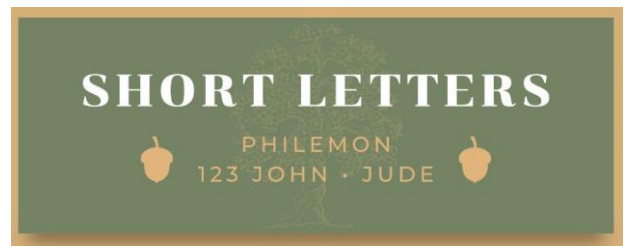
This is exactly where Jude urges us to pause, tremble, and give thanks because God, in His mercy, has opened our eyes, softened our hearts, and rescued us from the same path. What destroys the

proud serves as a fresh reminder of the blessings of humility, dependence, and gratitude. Their downfall is a warning, but it is also an invitation!

Application: Will you join me in clinging, by God's grace, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to the truth of the Good News about Jesus, our One and Only Savior? Will you join me in hearing Jude's message and walk in humility and give abundant thanks to the One who provides for us, protects us, and keeps us from falling?

Benediction

"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." (Jude 24–25, ESV)



The Mercy of God's Warnings

1. What did you think of the sermon "The Mercy of God's Warnings"?

2. Jude points to Israel, fallen angels, and Sodom as examples of unbelief and rebellion. What do these examples teach us about God's response to persistent unbelief and rebellion?

3. Jude says these false teachers "rely on their dreams" as their authority rather than God's revealed truth. What does Jude teach us about the danger of following personal spiritual impressions instead of God's Word, and how can we recognize when someone is doing this today?

4. Michael refuses to speak arrogantly even against the devil, instead saying, "*The Lord rebuke you.*" What does Michael's response teach us about humility, spiritual authority, and how we should speak?

5. Jude says those who reject God's truth are "destroyed by all that they... understand instinctively." How do these warnings call you personally to walk in humility, cling to the truth, and depend on God's grace?

