

Those Who Walk Away

5 Day Devotional

Day 1

Jude 1:17–19

Devotional

Jude assumes something many Christians try to avoid: hostility is normal for faithful believers. The apostles warned that in “the last time” (the whole period between Jesus’ first and second coming), Christians should expect mockers—people who sneer at the faith and follow their own desires. Jude says they are “worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.” That’s not an insult, it’s a diagnosis. Without the Spirit, people cannot see spiritual reality clearly. What seems precious and beautiful to believers looks foolish to them. When hostility comes, the temptation is to feel shocked, wounded, or abandoned by God. Jude says the opposite: when you face mockery, you are experiencing exactly what Jesus and the apostles said would happen. You are not off course—you are on it. This also exposes a dangerous assumption: that a lack of resistance means spiritual health. In reality, if there is never any friction between your faith and the culture around you, it may mean you’ve gone quiet or blurry about what you believe. Salt that has lost its saltiness does not sting or preserve anything.

Jude doesn’t call you to be combative, but he does call you to be clear. Your job is not to invent a safer version of Christianity; your job is to hold onto the real thing and be ready to stand when it is mocked.

Application

Reflection: How often does pushback or mockery from others cause you to go silent about your faith? What kinds of situations tempt you most to soften or hide what you believe?

Action: Identify one specific setting (workplace, school, family, online) where hostility or potential mockery has made you quiet. Decide on one simple, clear way to identify with Christ there this week—a gracious comment, an offered prayer, a gentle explanation of your conviction.

Prayer: “Lord Jesus, You told Your followers to expect mockery and opposition. Help me not to be surprised or discouraged when it comes. Give me courage to be clear about my faith without being harsh, and teach me to see hostility as confirmation that Your word is true, not as a sign that You have abandoned me. Strengthen me by Your Spirit to stand firm. Amen.”

Day 2

Jude 1:20–21

Devotional

Jude shifts from warning about false teachers to telling believers what to do: build, pray, keep, look forward.

“Building yourselves up on your most holy faith” means strengthening the structure of your inner life on the foundation of the gospel. It is not about inventing new truth, but going deeper into what God has already revealed. That happens as you feed on Scripture, obey what you learn, and receive encouragement from the church. “Praying in the Holy Spirit” is often misunderstood. Jude isn’t talking about a special spiritual elite; he is describing normal Christian prayer that consciously depends on the Spirit. The Spirit is a Person—not an “it.” He reminds you of what Jesus said, gives understanding, convicts of sin, and leads you into truth. “Keep yourselves in the love of God” does not mean earning God’s love. It means staying where His love is actively enjoyed and experienced—remaining responsive to Him rather than drifting into indifference or rebellion. And all of this is done while “looking forward” to Christ’s mercy in eternal life. The future mercy of Jesus fuels present perseverance.

In a world attacking the faith, Jude does not say, “Hide and hope.” He says, “Refuel your faith every day.” The more intense the attack, the more intentional the refueling must be.

Application

Reflection: How regularly are you “building yourself up” through Scripture, worship, and fellowship, versus coasting on past growth? How often does your hope consciously rest on the coming mercy of Jesus rather than on circumstances improving?

Action: Set aside one short, focused time (10–15 minutes) each day this week to:

- 1) Read a small passage of Scripture,
- 2) Ask the Spirit to highlight one truth or command,
- 3) Pray that truth back to God and ask how to obey it today.

Prayer: “Holy Spirit, remind me that You are a Person who dwells in me. Teach me to build my life on the truth You inspired in Scripture. Guide my prayers, correct my thoughts, and give fresh ‘aha moments’ that draw me closer to Jesus. Keep me in the love of God and fix my eyes on the mercy that is coming when Christ returns. Amen.”

Day 3

Jude 1:22–23

Devotional

Jude paints a picture of people at different spiritual conditions, and he calls believers to respond with discernment and mercy.

First, there are those “who are doubting.” Doubt is not the same as unbelief. Doubt wavers and asks questions; unbelief hardens and refuses to submit to truth. Jude does not say, “Attack the doubters.” He says, “Have mercy.” That means patience, listening, honest answers, and walking with them as questions surface. Many of Jesus’ own disciples doubted at times, yet He met them with truth and grace. *Second*, “save others, snatching them out of the fire.” Some are far closer to spiritual disaster, perhaps deeply entangled in false teaching or destructive sin. You cannot be indifferent while people you love drift toward ruin. But this rescue is not arrogant heroism; it is humble dependence on God’s power to save. *Third*, “on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.” This is a strong warning: while rescuing others, guard yourself. Sin is contagious; spiritual corruption can spread. You are called to love people while refusing to be pulled into their patterns. Hate the corruption, not the person.

This balance is difficult: gentle with doubters, urgent with the endangered, cautious with the corrupting influences. But it reflects the heart of Christ—full of truth and full of grace.

Application

Reflection: How many people in your life right now seem to be “near the fire”, heading toward serious spiritual or moral danger? Where might you be underestimating the pull of sin in others and failing to show “mercy with fear”?

Action: Choose one doubting person you know. Reach out this week with a simple act of mercy: a listening conversation, a text saying you are praying, or a resource that could help them with their questions. Identify a place where you are in danger of being drawn into sin yourself. Decide on one boundary you will put in place (less time, different context, greater accountability) so that you can love without being pulled down.

Prayer: “Lord, give me Your heart for those who doubt and those in danger. Teach me to show mercy instead of irritation, urgency instead of indifference, and caution instead of compromise. Help me hate sin without hardening my heart against sinners. Use me to ‘snatch’ some from the fire while keeping me anchored in Your truth. Amen.”

Day 4

Jude 1:23; Romans 12:9

Devotional

Scripture joins two ideas many try to separate: genuine love and deep hatred of evil. Jude calls believers to "hate even the garment polluted by the flesh", a vivid image. The "garment" represents anything stained by sin, any corruption that clings to a life. Paul echoes this: "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good." Real love doesn't shrug at what destroys people; it refuses to treat evil as harmless or entertaining. Harshness hates people along with their sins. Careless tolerance refuses to call anything evil as long as it seems to make someone happy. Biblical love does neither. It abhors evil precisely because it loves people and knows evil deforms, enslaves, and ultimately destroys them.

To abhor evil is not about personal disgust at "other people's sins" while excusing one's own. It begins at home: seeing sin in one's own heart as poisonous, not as a pet to be managed. Then it extends outward: recognizing that cultural trends, false religions, and ideologies that oppose Christ are not neutral, they are part of a spiritual war against God and His people. Yet in all this, Jude still calls for mercy. The stance is: mercy toward people, intolerance toward sin. That balance will make little sense to a culture that confuses affirmation with love. But it is the only way to truly care for souls and stay faithful to Christ.

Application

Reflection: What kinds of evil or sin does culture normalize that you may have begun to treat as harmless or trivial? Where is there a tendency to hate the sinner along with the sin, rather than separating the two as Scripture commands?

Action: Pick one specific area of personal struggle (anger, lust, gossip, greed, etc.). This week, confess it plainly to God as evil, not merely a weakness, and ask for renewed hatred of that sin and deeper love for righteousness.

Prayer: "Father, let my love be genuine. Teach me to abhor what You call evil and to cling to what You call good. Break my agreement with sin in my own life and keep me from self-righteousness toward others. Show me how to love people deeply while refusing to excuse what destroys them. Make my heart more like Yours. Amen."

Day 5

Jude 1:24–25; 2 Timothy 3:1–5

Devotional

Jude ends with one of the most hope-filled doxologies in Scripture. After warning about false teachers, mockers, and corruption, he turns attention where it ultimately belongs: “to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling.” The Christian life is not sustained by sheer willpower. Believers are called to build themselves up, to pray, to contend for their faith, but beneath and behind all of that stands God’s preserving power. He is able to guard from final falling away and to present His people “blameless with great joy” before His glory. The same God who demands holiness provides the keeping that gets believers home.

This matters especially because, as Paul says, “in the last days difficult times will come.” His list reads like a description of modern culture: lovers of self, money, pleasure; disobedient, ungrateful, haters of good; religious on the surface but denying God’s power. The pressure of this environment can make faith feel fragile. Jude’s doxology anchors hope beyond cultural trends. God’s glory, majesty, dominion, and authority are not fragile. They exist “before all time and now and forever.” The chaos of the last days does not threaten His rule. Christ will return, evil will be judged, and believers will be welcomed with joy into His presence. Living with that end in view changes how life is lived now. Fear gives way to endurance. Despair gives way to expectation. Passive Christianity gives way to active, hopeful faith—contending, loving, resisting evil, while trusting that God Himself is keeping His people.

Application

Reflection: How much of your daily outlook is shaped by news and cultural decline versus by the promise that God is able to keep you and present you blameless with joy? How often is the second coming of Christ part of conscious hope, rather than a distant doctrine rarely considered?

Action: Take a few minutes this week to write out a short prayer of praise modeled on Jude 24–25, naming specific ways God has kept you from stumbling. Read it aloud to God.

Prayer: “To You, the only God my Savior, through Jesus Christ my Lord, belong glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time, now, and forever. Thank You that You are able to keep me from stumbling and to present me blameless with great joy in Your presence. Strengthen me to live faithfully in difficult days, not by fear but by confidence in Your keeping power and in the sure return of Christ. Amen.”