

Book of Jude

One-Page Letters—part 4

August 30, 2020

The theme of the book of Jude: Be anchored in God’s story. Be alert to the dangers of getting drawn away from the central gospel story. You have a role in keeping yourself on the narrow road and God has a role to play.

DAY 1: Called, Loved, Kept

*Jude 1:1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been **called**, who are **loved** by God the Father and **kept** by Jesus Christ: ² Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.*

1. Jude reminds believers that God’s story in your life started long before you were born and will continue long after today!

a. **Your past:** You were **called**

Ephesians 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

b. **Your present:** You are **loved**

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

c. **Your future:** You will be **kept**

John 17:12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

2. These three concepts are meant to anchor us in the faith. Each concept gives us ammunition against the temptations and attacks to our faith. Which of the three concepts helps anchor you?

“Contend for the faith...”

*Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all entrusted to the saints.*

3. While God’s role is to call, love and keep us, we also have a responsibility to grow in our faith.

4. What strikes you from the beginning of this letter?

DAY 2: Examples of faith derailed

1. There will be assaults on your faith. One of the main ones will come from within you. There is an ache in the soul (Romans 8:23) that is meant to draw us to God. Instead, our sinful nature will be attracted to anything or anyone that even temporarily makes us feel better but at a great cost—to slowly separate us from God. Over time we run the risk of being diverted off the narrow road (Matt. 7:13-14). False teachers can accelerate this downward trend.

Jude 1:4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

2. Jude gives us a list of examples of people who and why they torpedoed their faith.

Jude 1:5 Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.

a. Within days of two million Hebrews being released from four hundred years of slavery, some of the men made a strong move to get the people to go back to Egypt, and back into slavery. It threatened to turn two million Hebrews back into slavery! Drastic action was needed. God acted!

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home, these he has kept in darkness bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day

b. A percentage of angels rebelled with Satan against God. Apparently, a sizeable amount of demons have been removed from their destructive activity.

Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

c. Sodom and Gomorrah degenerated into a culture of rape and sexual abuse. They had completely, irreparably rebelled. It needed to be stopped. God acted.

d. Below, Jude lists a number of sins that derail people. Underline each one you see.

Jude 1:8 In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings. ⁹ But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" ¹⁰ Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals--these are the very things that destroy them.

3. Sin is serious business. God hates it because it is destructive to people. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: More examples of faith derailed

Jude 1:11 Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

1. "The way of Cain"- Cain killed his brother Abel out of being indignant at God for life being hard and not getting his own way.
2. "Balaam's error" – He sought illegitimate profit, and then gladly led a number of God's people into public sin. Perverse pleasure loves company.
3. "Korah's rebellion" – Two hundred and fifty Hebrew councilmen begrudged what they thought was a "lesser position." They threatened Moses' leadership. It would have split God's people and torpedoed the move to the Promised Land. Drastic action was needed. God acted.

Jude 1:12 These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm--shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted--twice dead. ¹³ They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever

4. Jude warns us about false teachers that promise much and deliver little. He compares them to a number of physical scenes where you expect one thing but the results are empty.
5. Why does this matter? If a bible teacher undersells the difficulty of walking with God or undersells the tenacity of our human nature, or oversells how important blessings are, you are being set up for some gigantic disappointments. It's when those disappointments hit that you are tempted to throw in the towel!

Jude 1:14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones ¹⁵ to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Jude 1:16 These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

6. Jude specifies four sins that can have a devastating effect on people. Jot down what strikes you about each of them:
 - a. Grumblers and faultfinders-
 - b. Follow their own evil desires-
 - c. Boast about themselves-
 - d. Flatter others for their own advantage-
7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 4: The call to remain faithful

1. Jude has made his case for avoiding the catastrophic dangers that can derail our faith. He has also given us concrete and historical examples of how others have done this.

2. He begins to bring his argument to a conclusion.

Jude 1:17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

3. Jude summarizes what he has said in four massive mistakes.

a. *"They follow their own ungodly desires."*

b. *"The men who divide you..."*

c. *"...Who follow natural instincts ..."* (This is the heart of the sin problem)

d. *"...And do not have the Spirit."*

4. Jude returns to what our focus should be.

Jude 1:20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. ²¹ Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

5. Jot down what strikes you about each of these "to do" items:

a. *"Build yourselves up in your most holy faith"*

b. *"Pray in the Holy Spirit"*

c. *"Keep yourselves in God's love..."*

d. *"... As you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus to bring you to eternal life."*

6. This last item is where the rubber meets the road for the Christian. The temptation is to feel better now. That is not always possible when walking with Jesus. Jude tells us to "wait..." Wait for what? Ultimately, we are entrusting ourselves to the full joy we will have in heaven. In the meantime we walk by faith, and set ourselves to reflect Jesus in our lives.

Jude 1:22 Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

7. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Doxology, promises kept

1. Jude finishes this letter anchoring us to the character of God.

Jude 1:24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy--

2. However we stumble and bumble along in our faith, God is still and always committed to bringing us back to the narrow road.

3. “*He is able to keep you from falling*” does not mean “to keep you from sinning.”

*Proverbs 24:16 ...for though a righteous man **falls** seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.*

4. Jude is saying that God is committed to doing everything within His sovereignty to keep you on the narrow road in order to get you to your final destination—heaven.

5. The heaven part is embedded in v. 24 with two FANTASTIC promises!

a. “*To present you before his glorious presence without fault*”

b. “*...With great joy.*”

6. In a nutshell, this is the hope of the Christian—entering into the presence of God, reflecting His glorious character and entering into full and complete joy, eternally!

7. As Jude writes verse 24, I imagine he is overcome with the amazing sovereignty of God that can actually make this happen for any human being! And thus?

...the amazing verse 25.

Jude 1:25 ...to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

8. What more can be said? THIS is what only God can do!!!

9. What strikes you from today’s devotional?