

False Teachers Described

Text: Jude 8-10

Introduction:

- Jude continues with a sharp, scathing report on the character of apostates
- When you read the book of Jude, what sticks out is the barrage of attacks, the firing off of artillery against false teachers- and rightly so!
- Some raise questions about whether a Christian should cast judgment upon others- being too “judgmental.” Often Jesus is quoted- “He who is without sin cast the first stone...” “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” These are the only sayings some people know from Jesus...
- The question “Should Christians judge?” is not a serious question to the Bible reader: Jesus judged, Paul judged, and here we just read Jude judged. And so we must, with biblical wisdom, judge and discern.
- They miss the context that the Bible is warning us against incorrect judgement, not against any judgment whatsoever. The warning is to not be a hypocrite! “...Judge righteous judgment” –John 7:24

I. **THEIR CHARACTER** – v. 8

- a. Filthy- is added by KJV translators but appropriately describes their dreams/thoughts and behavior
- b. “Likewise also”- connects with the thoughts in verse 7
 - i. Immoral and sensual just like Sodom
 - ii. False teachers and immorality often go hand in hand. For example- Roman Catholic priest scandal
- c. Dreamers-
 - i. Perhaps these false teachers claimed divine revelation
 - ii. The dangers of a polluted thought life!

1. Guard against harmful TV shows, music, video games
 2. Don't entertain sinful thoughts- bitterness, immoral, covetous
- d. They defile the flesh
- i. Engaging in immorality defiles our flesh- I Corinthians 6:18
 - ii. The idea is the same as "strange flesh" in v. 7. Sadly, today many churches/religious leaders approve and promote the homosexual agenda. The culture now tells us there is a new morality; who knows what will be next?
- e. They despise dominion- reject authority – II Peter 2:10
- i. They reject the authority of God and His Word
 - ii. They reject the people God has placed in authority
 - iii. "speak evil of dignities"- Today there is a spirit of rebellion and disdain for authority figures. See Romans 13:1-4
 - iv. There are even some so-called ministers that would have us believe that the biggest problem in certain communities are authorities such as police. No, the bigger problem is a lack of respect for authority- for laws, parents, teachers, and even for God!
 - v. This ultimately leads to "self" being the authority in our lives. Judges 21:25, "...every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

II. THE EXAMPLE OF MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL

- a. This is one of the most difficult verses in Jude to understand
- b. The conflict-Jude reveals there was a contention between Michael and Satan. This has the idea of "opposing, striving with, or disputing." Clearly there was an intense conflict over this issue. Apparently Satan sought to discover the body of Moses. Deuteronomy 34:6 says, "And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day."
- c. We must understand the spiritual warfare that goes on unseen to us- Daniel 10:13 tells how Gabriel was in conflict with a demon called the prince of Persia

and Michael came to his aid. We must also understand this in our conflicts in life (Eph. 6:12)

- d. There are all sorts of theories as to why Satan wanted this body. Some have said that the devil wanted to use Moses' body as an object of worship to lead Israel astray into idolatry. Perhaps also Moses and Elijah are the two witnesses of Revelation 11, and God needed Moses' body for that future plan.
- e. We learn some valuable lessons
 - i. Satan is an accuser of the brethren. Opposes righteousness and those who try and do God's will.
 - ii. Michael understood he was not a match for Satan on his own- "he durst not": he dared not. He understood authority
 - iii. Michael's confidence was in the Lord! He said "The Lord rebuke thee." We don't need to talk to the enemy, we just simply go to God and talk to Him about the enemy.

III. **FALSE TEACHERS ARE BRUTE BEASTS**- v. 10

- a. They are willingly ignorant of the truth- II Peter 2
- b. "brute beasts" -they operate in the flesh- I Cor. 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."
- c. This is what the apostates "know naturally" (vs. 10) – their natural animal instincts and the gratification of their sensual appetites.
- d. Romans 10:3

Conclusion: "How ironical that when men should claim to be knowledgeable, they should actually be ignorant; when they think themselves superior to the common man they should actually be on the same level as animals, and be corrupted by the very practices in which they seek liberty and self-expression." (Green)