

Building Yourself Up

November 24, 2019

Jude 1-25

Vol. 9 Num. 47

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



Ludwig van Beethoven, the great classical music composer, died at the untimely age of fifty-seven. There has been much speculation about the cause of his death. Some believe Beethoven may have accidentally poisoned himself.

“That’s what William Walsh, a scientist from Illinois, suggested after studying strands of hair from the body of the famous composer. Walsh discovered that Beethoven’s body had one hundred times the normal amount of lead and concluded that Beethoven’s death was due to lead poisoning. Beethoven’s lead poisoning may have been due to the mineral spa he went to for relaxation. The very thing he thought was bringing him relief was slowly poisoning him to death.

Spiritual poison is like that. As people engage in practices and embrace ideas that are spiritually poisonous, they think they’re becoming more spiritual. But in reality, they’re gradually being poisoned to eternal death.” *

In the New Testament, the letter of Jude warns true believers to contend with those who infiltrate the church and spread poison by perverting the grace of God. Jude warns against those who attempt to corrupt the Gospel by denying “*our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ*” He urges Christians to prepare for battle by building themselves up with Scripture and then fight for the faith. As they do, they are to show love towards those who have been led astray and hopefully can be re-directed with God’s Word!

*(Larson, C. B., & Ten Elshof, P. (2008). 1001 illustrations that connect (p. 467). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.)

Jude 1-25

Greeting

¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: ² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

Judgment on False Teachers

³ Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

⁵ 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. ⁶ 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— ⁷ 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.

⁸ Yet in like manner these people also, relying on their dreams, defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. ⁹ 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.”

¹⁰ But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. ¹¹ Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam’s error and perished in Korah’s rebellion. ¹² These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; ¹³ wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” ¹⁶ These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

A Call to Persevere

¹⁷ But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

Doxology

²⁴ 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, ²⁵ 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. (ESV)

① EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is repeated to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are like or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. In verses 1-2, how does Jude introduce himself and how does he refer to the recipients of his letter?

9. In verse 3, Jude encouraged the people to do what?

10. In verse 4, what concerns does Jude make about those who caused disruption within the church?

11. In verses 5-7, what three Old Testament examples does Jude give as a warning?

12. In verses 8-13, what else does Jude have to say about those who caused problems in the church?

13. In verses 14-16, how else does Jude describe these trouble makers?

14. In verses 17-23, Jude explains how true believers should contend with heretics. List some of these.

15. In verses 24-25, who does Jude say will keep true believers from falling away?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

Why does this MATTER to me?

16. Have you ever been exposed to false teaching? What were your thoughts?

17. How do you guard yourself from false teaching? List some examples.

18. Have you ever had to warn another believer about exposing himself or herself to false teaching? How did you go about that?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...