

Contend for the Faith – Jude Series

Apostates Illustrated (Lesson 5)

Text: Jude 1:11-13

Introduction

1. Review of theme and structure of the Book
 - A. Part 1 – Apostates De Masked (Vs. 1-19)
 - B. Part 2 – Believers Exhorted (Vs. 20-25)
2. Brief review of previous lesson
3. This lesson: Increase in the severity of the language. Note the word ‘woe’. To further teach his readers concerning the character of these evil apostates, Jude employs 8 illustrations. 3 of these are again drawn from the Old Testament and the remaining 5 are drawn from the realm of nature.

I. **Cain’s Way (Vs. 11a)**

- A. The Account: Genesis 4:2-7 – *“And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground and offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doesn’t not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.”*
- B. Key Observations
 1. Works Based – the fruit of his labours.
 2. Bloodless – no shedding of blood.
 - a. Hebrews 9:22 *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*
 - b. 1 Peter 1:18 *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;”*
 - c. The Lamb has always been at the centre of God’s plan of salvation right from the beginning of time.
 3. Manmade – rejected God’s way of salvation
- C. A Modern Example
 1. **Roman Catholic Church:**
 - a. At the Council of Trent (1545-1563), the declarations of which are still in force, the Roman Catholic Church formally condemned the biblical

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doctrine of faith alone and grace alone. Consider the following declarations of Trent:

- b. “If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA” (Sixth Session, Canons Concerning Justification, Canon 12).
 - c. “If anyone says that the justice received is not preserved and also not increased before God through good works, but that those works are merely the fruits and signs of justification obtained, but not the cause of its increase, LET HIM BE ANATHEMA” (Sixth Session, Canons Concerning Justification, Canon 24).
2. **The Bible's Anathema:** Galatians 1:8 *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (9) As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*

II. Balaam's Error (Vs. 11b)

A. Key O.T. Passages (Numbers 22-24)

B. Key N.T. Passages

1. Revelation 2:14 *“But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.”*
2. II. Peter 2:15 *“Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness.”*
3. Titus 1:10-11 *“For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.”*

C. Key Truth: Financial gain through false spirituality

D. Modern Examples

1. **Joel Osteen:** Pastor of the Lakewood Church in Houston Texas that boasts a weekly attendance of 47,000. Lives in a mansion in Houston Texas valued at 10.5 million. Makes multiple millions from his book sales. He was reportedly paid a \$13 million dollar advance by the Publishing House, Free Press for one of his latest books. Due to the lucrative returns on his book sales, he stopped taking the \$200K salary from his church in 2005. Osteen's popularity is undoubtedly due to his positive only, non-judgmental, prosperity preaching. Osteen describes his calling as this: to give hope. “Most people are beaten down by life already,” he says in a soothing southern accent. “They don't come to hear me say, ‘You know

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what? You're all sinners.' They already know that. I'd rather say, 'You know what? God's on your side.'"

<http://www.people.com/people/archive/article/0,,20170936,00.html>

2. **Brian & Bobbie Houston of Hillsong:** Preaches an upbeat prosperity message. When asked by a Sydney Morning Herald journalist in 2003 regarding what was the secret of their success, Brian replied: "I think the biggest issue is relevance, I really do, We are scratching people where they are itching."
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/National/Praise-the-Lord-and-pass-the-chequebook/2005/02/18/1108609391134.html>
3. 2 Timothy 4:3 *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"*
- E. 2 Peter 2:3 *"And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."*
 1. 'covetousness' – the motivation
 2. 'feigned words' – the means. 'feigned' comes from the Greek word *plastos*, from which our word plastic is derived. Refers to that which is artificial and superficial.
- F. Refer also Jude 16

III. Core's Gainsaying – (Vs. 11c)

- A. Key O.T. Passage – Numbers 16
- B. 'gainsaying' = comes from the Greek word 'antilogia' (αντιλογια) which means to speak against. Translated elsewhere as 'strife' and 'contention'.
- C. Key Truth: Rebellion towards God's ordained authorities and a covetousness of position. There was a lust for position.

IV. Hidden Rocks (12a)

- A. They shipwreck innocent souls.
- B. They exhibit a brazen, open, self-centeredness. The phrase "feeding themselves" literally means shepherding or pastoring themselves.
- C. 'spot' = a blemish or stain

V. Empty Clouds (12b)

- A. They look impressive but bring no relief to thirsty hearts. They promise much but give little. They offer life but bring death.
- B. They are unstable and are consistently moving with every wind of doctrine.
- C. Ephesians 4:14 *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and **carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the*

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sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”

VI. Fruitless Trees (12c)

- A. They offer no spiritual food for hungry souls. Their teachings do not satisfy.
- B. They are destined for fiery judgment (Ps. 52:5; Prov 2:22, Jer 1:10, Matt 3:10, 7:19 & Lk 3:9)

VII. Raging Waves (13a)

- A. ‘raging’ = wild
- B. They spew forth unrighteous, unholy, perverted, twisted teachings.
- C. Phil 3:19 “...whose glory is in their shame...”
- D. Illustration: The beach after a storm.
- E. They drift and move with the currents and winds of worldly philosophies.

VIII. Wandering Stars (13b)

- A. They appear to offer spiritual light but then vanish into the blackness of night like a comet or shooting star, leaving men stranded to spiritual ruin.
- B. They are destined to the black darkness of eternal damnation.

Summary/Conclusion:

1. What do you trust in for your salvation?
2. Are you being tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine?
3. Are you following teachers who will lead you astray?