

Sermon Series: Contending for the Faith

August 30, 2020

Sermon Title: “Hidden Reefs and Waterless Clouds, The Dangers and Disappointment of False Teachers” from Jude 1:8-13

Today’s Scripture: Jude 1:8-13

Prayer

Introduction: I have been pretty bold in my last few sermons condemning the teachings of false teachers in certain denominations. (The people in those denominations do not necessarily agree with the denominational leaders or direction the church is going so take them out of the equation.) But the false teachers deserve all the condemnation the Bible heaps upon them. Some may argue that calling out false teachers is mean or judgmental. We hear that a lot these days. “Who are you to judge?” we are told. Let’s examine what the Bible says about judging others. **Luke 6:37 “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; (ESV) Yet, John 7:24 Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.” (ESV) And, 1 Corinthians 5:11–13 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside. “Purge the evil person from among you.” (ESV)**

Main point: Satan uses greedy, and sexually uncontrolled wolves dressed as sheep to seduce believers into believing what pleases their sensual and base appetites, making them useless for Christ and His Kingdom.

Context:

Jude 8–13

1. Jude illustrates how false teachers devalue the authorities God has placed over His cosmos, **(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.”**
 - Last week we shared how the angels were involved in the transmission of the Law from Yahweh to Moses and from Moses to the people. When we disregard the Law, or when false teachers despise it by contradicting it like so many have done (lots of previous illustrations) then they are essentially spitting in the eyes of angels. Try insulting a Cherubim. Good luck with that. These angels rank in the same category, power wise as Satan Himself. **Ezekiel 28:14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. (ESV)**

- To illustrate just how insane this action is of insulting and blaspheming angels is by false teachers Jude uses an illustration found in a pseudepigraphal book called Assumption of Moses or Testament of Moses. Here is how the story goes according to this non-canonical book.
 1. God gave Michael an assignment to bury the body of Moses. When he arrived to do just that he encountered Satan who said he had a legal right to the body since 1) he had been given authority over death and physical things and 2) Moses was a murderer. Michael knew that he had to bury the body and not allow Satan to display it or defile it or do with it whatever he intended to do. But how to do that. Satan has more power than Michael and that says a lot. After all Daniel 12 says that Michael is the one protecting Israel against the forces of darkness (I bet he has lots of help) so Michael is no lightweight.
 2. So, even though Michael perhaps wanted to say “Go to hell Satan” or “be cursed Satan”, or “Go away Satan”, Michael knew that would be overreaching. He had no business telling Satan to bug off. So instead Michael, having direct contact with our Lord, said, “The Lord rebuke you”. Since the rebuke came from a higher authority and power, Satan had to back off and allow Michael to do his job.
 3. This is insightful. Uniformed and ignorant Christians today boast about telling Satan where to go or commanding Satan to leave them alone. Wow are they out of their league. If Michael refused to do that, what gives them the idea that they have that kind of authority? This is also true of Christians who claim they are overthrowing territorial spirits such as was described in Daniel when it speaks of the Prince of Persia. Christians are out of their league when they go up against the spirit of Minnesota or the controlling spirit over Minneapolis. I have no doubt there are such entities. But, unless the Lord has specifically told them to rebuke those territorial spirits, they will incur great wrath and suffering.
 4. If this is the case that we can simply command Satan to depart then why didn’t Job tell Satan to take a hike and leave him alone, or Peter when God granted Satan the right to test Peter’s faith or Paul when he suffered a thorn in the flesh?
 5. You may ask then, “What about Luke 10:19 where Jesus has given us authority over serpents and scorpions?” Serpents and scorpions in that passage are demons. Demons have less authority than territorial spirits and far less authority than Satan. We are encouraged to do warfare against demons and use the name of Jesus in doing so. We do not need a special word from the Lord to command them to leave.
 6. The other question you want to ask me is how can Jude quote this story if it comes from a book that is not part of our Bible, it is not authorized? My answer is this, I think the Lord told his half-brother that the story in the Assumption of Moses was true. Many apocryphal books have accurate historical accounts. What they often don’t have is accurate theology. So, unless a book is 100% true historically, scientifically, and theologically, it was not added to the canon (meaning ruler) of Scripture.

2. Jude illustrates how false teachers devalue the authorities God has placed over His cosmos, leading to their eternal damnation. (10) **But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. (ESV)**

- I love the way Jude thinks. First of all he tells us that these false teachers back then and today, let me pause to name a few

1. Word of faith movement: (Name it and claim it)

- Benny Hinn
- Creflo Dollar
- Joyce Meyer
- Kenneth Hagin
- Marilyn Hickey
- Paula White
- TD Jakes
- Joel Osteen

- Do not understand what they should obey but don't and then they understand what they shouldn't obey but do. Let's explain. First,

1. They do not understand that angels had and have a strategic part in the transmission of truth. They were there on Sinai, they (in my opinion) handed the tablets of stone to Moses, they affirmed the holiness and goodness of God and because of who they are, holy, powerful, unable to lie, Moses was obligated to believe them as are we. So when demonic angels encourage and seduce false teachers today to teach falsehoods, live immorally, and holy angels are there fighting with evil angels to be heard, these false teachers seem to be totally oblivious to the spiritual warfare going on all around them. Literally, by not listening to the angels who are doing their best to tell them what is true they are calling them liars, even though they may not know they are doing so. And since they do not have the Holy Spirit within, then they cannot hear internally via a soft heart what is true, but are only listening to demonic voices telling them what is false, or better yet what is false and makes them money.

2. But, they do understand something else. They understand their animal instincts. 4-H members should know all about this. Great program isn't it? Young people learning all about animal husbandry and breeding and genetics. Those in that program get an up close and personal look at animal instincts especially when it comes to breeding. I believe, this is what Jude is referring to. These false teachers know all about their sexual drive. They act like bulls in a herd. Get the picture? There's little monogamy and much promiscuity. How are they destroyed by this promiscuity? You're joking right when you ask that question?

- They are destroyed by
 1. Ruining their marriages

2. Ruining their careers
3. Ruining their health with STD's
4. Ruining their emotional well-being
5. Ruining their chances in hell of a lighter sentence. They will indeed receive just compensation for all the lives they have ruined and led into eternal damnation with them.

Conclusion

Jude and others are not concerned about the George Soros' of this world. They are not concerned about the Deep State, or the BLM movement or Antifa. They are not concerned about the Bill Gates or the Mark Zuckerberg's or the Jeff Bezos' of this world. The world will always have them and they don't pretend to be Christian. But they are very concerned about the Tim Keller's of this world. I have in my computer a 23 page document thoroughly researched email documenting how Tim Keller has been mentored influenced by the Marxists to promote a combination of watered down Liberation Theology and Critical Race Theory into our churches. Thousands of churches. You could put a modern day title to the Book of Jude. It could say, "What Jude has to say to Tim Keller and many like him."

Final Words:

Satan is a Master at deception. Only fools think they can remain undeceived and still not read, and study God's word with humility and prayerful submission to the Holy Spirit. Illiterate Christians are Satan's play stooges.