

SERMON NOTES:

- Jude was the half-brother of Jesus Christ that didn't begin a believer but eventually followed Jesus.
 - Matthew 13:55
 - People who weren't raised as followers of Jesus often appreciate the gift of salvation and defend the faith because they once attacked/rejected it. Your testimony matters!
 - Each section of J.U.D.E. has calls to action; Faith without works is DEAD
1. J - Judgement on False Teachers/Believers (5-16)
 - a. Destroyed unbelievers, chained disobedient angels, punished Sodom and Gomorrah: the trifacta of God's judgement on His creation, Jude 5-7
 - b. Defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme glorious: the trifacta response of people who rely on themselves rather than on God, Jude 8
 - c. The Lord will judge those that speak against Him; their actions are identifiable, Jude 16
 - d. Rejection of God's grace by faith leads to judgement without mercy
 2. U - Understanding Being a Believer (1-4)
 - a. Called, beloved, and kept: the trifacta of processes for every believer, Jude 1
 - b. Mercy, Peace, and Love: the trifacta of the provisions of God for every believer, Jude 2
 - c. Contending for the faith exposes the condemnation of those changing the grace of our Lord into the gainful pursuits of the flesh, Jude 4
 - d. There is power in the process of following Jesus by faith
 3. D - Doxology (24-25)
 - a. Jesus is the ONLY way to walk in satisfaction of God's holiness, Jude 24-25
 - b. Now to him...through Jesus Christ our Lord
 - c. All that we have to look forward to is because of Jesus: Give Him Glory!
 4. E - Encouraging Believers (17-23)
 - a. False teachers (devoid of Holy Spirit) were predicted by God through His people. Don't be surprised by those that divide; rather, prepare through faith, Jude 17, 19
 - b. Build up in faith, praying in Holy Spirit, keep the love of God, wait for mercy, Jude 20-21
 - c. Show mercy to others so you may share the Gospel of Faith, Jude 22-23
 - d. Your faith should lead you to ACTION! Building is an action that is based on hope and future life. Let's build on the principles of JUDE!

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Read Jude 1-4. Jude and James were half-brothers of Jesus that denied Him at first but then became important parts of the Church's history. Read Mark 6:3; Acts 15; Galatians 1-2. Why is it significant that Jude (short for Judas, so there's no confusion with the apostle that betrayed Jesus) calls himself a servant, rather than claim his bloodline connection? How does Jude's introduction (mercy, peace, and love) differ from Paul's (grace and peace)? Why the difference? Why is it important to know what defines a true believer?
2. Read Jude 5-16. Notice the names: Egypt, disobedient angels, Sodom and Gomorrah, devil, Cain, Balaam, Korah. What did these people/places have to do with God's judgement? Does God's longsuffering last forever? Read Jude 12-13. How do these descriptions describe false teachers/believers today? Notice the characteristics in verse 16: grumblers, malcontent, follow the flesh, loud mouthed, showing favoritism. What does Scripture say against these practices? For example: I Timothy 6:6.
3. Read Jude 17-23. Christians should not be discouraged by the actions of unbelievers but encouraged that God has called them to something better. Notice the comparisons: build-faith; praying-Spirit; keep-love; wait-mercy. What is the significance of pairing these actions together? What action steps can you take to build your faith, rather than your fear? II Timothy 1:7. Fear will cause you to stop the actions of building and cause you to fall.
4. Read Jude 24-25. What are the actions that Jesus does for every believer that makes Him worthy of all glory and praise? How do those actions impact you today? What is the difference between glory, majesty, dominion, and authority?