**Jude’s Warning Part 2: Contending for the Faith**

Opening:

- recap on part 1 – vs 1- 16

- Jude has a warning for us – vs 4: That certain people (false shepherds) had creeped into the Church unnoticed. And they were perverting the grace of our God (salvation) into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ as Master and Lord (paraphrasing vs 4). Find the sheep

- This was so important to him – more important than the message of our common salvation. He had to contend for the faith.

- Because Jesus saves and destroys – He gave us 3 E.G.’s : Israelites in the Wilderness; Angels who rebelled; and Sodom and Gomorrah.

- These three E.G’s were a foreshadowing of the Gospel -

**Compare to John 3:16**

For God so love the world that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**And John 3:18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Jesus saves and Jesus destroys.

* We saw that this message is just as relevant to us today as it was to the early Church; not just the pastor or just the Elders, but to all who are called beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ (vs1)
* Which is why we, (the members of KBC) need to ensure that we have right Elders in place, to effectively Shepherd this flock here at Knysna.
* Jude helps us by giving not only characteristics of these ungodly people, but also E.G.’s of ungodly people, so that we recognize the false shepherds for who they are.
* We also saw that we need to study the inerrant Word of the Lord, the Bible, to recognize false teachings.

Homework:

 1Tim3, Titus1, 1 Pet5.

* To borrow from Malcolm’s message last week – Expect the wolves - **The wolves are coming!** Are you ready to contend for the Faith? Is KBC ready?

**Pray**

The Lord, in his Grace to us, not only warns us through his servant Jude that false shepherds are coming, but He also equips us to fight against this evil. He tells us what we need to do to protect ourselves and at the same time how save others.

**Slides 2-4**

Scripture Reading: Jude 17-25

Who is Jude (God) speaking to? But you..beloved – see vs 1: To those who are called beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ – you and I.

vs 17-18 “But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” It is these who cause division, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.”

We are in the last time…There are worldly people, in whom the Spirit is completely absent and they are coming to scoff at my Lord, my Jesus Christ. And if you consider yourself one of His children, these ungodly people are coming to scoff at your Jesus, your Saviour. They are coming to try and cause division amongst us. They will try and shipwreck our faith. They want to feast on us. They want to mislead us. They will scoff at our Lord and Saviour, our Jesus.

Q: What am I going to do about this? What are you going to do about this? How are we going to counter them? How must we contend for the faith?

To be fore warned is to be forearmed.

We know they are coming. So we need to prepare ourselves. We need to guard ourselves against them and their works.

Q: But how do we do this? How do we guard ourselves?

Jude tells us in vs21 that we must keep ourselves in the love of God. The Greek word for keep is tereo (tay-reh’- o) – to watch, to guard.

**Slide 5**

We need to keep ourselves in the love of God. And we do that by:

* building ourselves up in our most holy faith
* praying in the Holy Spirit,
* waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

**Building ourselves up:**

**2Pet1:5-8**

Faith + Virtue (Goodness – NIV) + Knowledge + Self Control + Steadfastness (Perseverance – NIV)+ Godliness + Brotherly Affection (philadelphia – love between brothers and sisters in Christ) + Love (agape – benevolence)

**Praying in the Holy Spirit:**

* does Jude mean praying in tongues or something else? Whether you believe that the gifts have ceased or if you believe that they have continued, we have to ask ourselves – was everyone gifted with tongues? 1Cor14 implies that some were gifted with tongues, and others had other giftings. Jude has addressed this letter to all who call themselves beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ – the whole church. So he can’t be telling us to pray in tongues, he must be telling us something else.
* **Eph 5:18** – And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart…..submitting to one another…this is talking about the Christian life, how we are to behave.
* Likewise we should pray - don’t pray for selfish desires, but that the Will of God be done, submitting to the Lord.

**Waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life**

* Keeping focus on Christ, He is coming again, to take us to eternal life in Heaven. Eternal life vs temporary life on earth, with temporary problems

**Slide 6**

Others:

* Mercy on those who doubt
* Snatch others out of the fire
* Others show mercy with fear, hating the even the garment stained by flesh

**Mercy on those who doubt:**

* Even believers sometimes stumble, they doubt – give x2 e.g.’s – Thomas who doubts that Jesus actually was raised from the dead and John, who doubted whether Jesus was the true Messiah. Thomas the disciple, John the Baptist – Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another? Jesus responds – the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.

**Snatch others out of the fire:**

* What is instore for us Christians? The pleasures of Heaven. What is instore for those who don’t believe? The fires of Hell.
* Jude tells us to preach the Good News, preach the Truth that leads to salvation. Lead people to Christ!

**To others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh:**

* To those who have fallen into sin, we need to show mercy. We need to love them. We need to council them and try lead them away from their sin.
* Because sin is affront to God, who is Holy and Just.
* We need to lead our brother away from sin, we must do so in fear of falling into that sin ourselves. We need to fear for ourselves and for our brother who is in sin.
* We must hate everything associated with that sin.
* We must love the sinner, but hate the sin.

By doing these things, by living holy lives, lives that are in complete contrast to the false shepherds, these wolves that Jude and the apostles warned us about, we will fight back. We will stand tall against the scoffers. We will not be divided. We shall be contending for our faith.

Summary – daunting task.

We don’t have to do this on our own. We can’t do this on our own. There is One who is able to keep us from stumbling – the only God, our Saviour – Jesus Christ our Lord. In **John 17:12** we read Jesus’ own word, in his prayer, regarding this –

*While I was with them, I* ***kept*** *them in your name, which you have given me. I have* ***guarded*** *them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

**Slide 7**

We might sin, but we will never fall out of his hand.

Not only is He able to keep us, to guard us, but He is able to present us blameless before the presence of His glory – with great joy!

How? - We have all sinned. We are all stained by our past. Not one of us can say that they have lead perfect lives. If you do say that you have no sin – you are deceived and the truth is not in you. And by doing so, you make Him a liar, and His Word is not in you.

 But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He has cleansed with His own precious blood. The Blood that was spilt on the Cross.

If you have not yet been washed clean with His Blood, if you have not yet accepted Jesus as your personal saviour, please come and speak to any Malcom or any of the deacons before you leave. Because He is coming again. When – we don’t know, but He is coming. For those who have accepted Him as Lord and Saviour, He is our Blessed Hope, that leads to eternal life. But if He is not your Lord and Saviour, He is still coming again, but not as the Lamb, but as the Lion. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. And you will end up in the fire.

Let us help snatch you out of the fire.