Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – May 20, 2018

The Last Days! What happens next?

Life Lessons from Four Apostles

Stand Firm, Stay Faithful!

Confronting Counterfeits in the Last Days

Jude

Jude says that although he purposed to write one kind of letter, he wrote quite another. He had planned to describe salvation and its blessings, but found himself so disturbed by what he saw around him that he had to write a letter of warning. Drawing on patterns from our “Old Testament,” he reminds us that the false teachers are nothing new, and that at the coming of Jesus, they will be destroyed. The warning to us is to make sure that we don’t fall for their craftiness and turn out to be counterfeit ourselves.

***Warning: Churches have been infiltrated by the enemy!*** vv. 1-4

Jude tells us four things about the false teachers:

1. They have come subtly and quietly, without notice.

2. They are ungodly people destined for judgment.

3. They twist the doctrine of grace to encourage lust.

4. They deny the Lordship and Authority of Jesus.

***Reminder: Nothing new, this follows an old pattern.***  vv. 5-16

Model #1: Judgment came on unbelievers among Israel. v. 5

Model #2: Fallen angels are imprisoned, awaiting judgment. v. 6

Model #3: Sodom and Gomorrah were judged by fire. v. 7

Model #4: Satanic arrogance on display, awaits judgment. vv. 8-16

Notice the actions of the false teachers (in vv. 8-19):

They follow dreams over doctrine.

They pursue sensuality, not purity.

They reject authority and blaspheme God.

They embrace their lower nature, not spiritual realities.

They “minister” to others only for money.

They are hypocritical impostors, not spiritually alive.

They sin shamelessly, proving ripe for judgment.

They are malcontents playing favorites to gain power.

They are exactly what Jesus and His apostles predicted.

***Corrective: Pursue truth, love, and life in Christ.*** vv. 20-25

First, exercise our persevering power in righteousness.

There is much to do: build yourself up in the faith, pray in the Spirit, keep yourself in God’s love, wait for His mercy, and show mercy to others by telling them of Jesus.

Second, trust the preserving power of God.

There is much only God can do: keep us from stumbling, present us blameless before Himself, all to the praise of His glory.

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***Last Days Life Lesson***

***False teachers follow an ancient and predictable pattern***

***which assures their destruction,***

***so believers can recognize them and defend themselves against them***

***in God’s love and by His power.***

***Going Deeper--For Growth Groups:***

1. Why does Jude spend so much time comparing the false teachers to characters of the past?

Why do they pose such a threat?

2. How do we keep ourselves in God’s love? How do we build ourselves up in the faith?

Why such an emphasis upon God’s mercy?