

Jude: A Battle Worth Fighting

Sunday a.m. 2/25/2018

- ❖ Many of the battles in our life are not worth fighting for
- ❖ I learned to pick my battles (sometimes)
- ❖ I have found very few hills that I was willing to die on

✧ **Jude tells us that there is a hill worth dying on; our faith, what we believe about Jesus, the Gospel, salvation**

Jude 3

Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

- ❖ We will meet Jude, the recipients of the letter and why he wrote to them

■ Jude: A Humble Servant (Jude 1a)

Jude 1a

¹ Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

- **Jude was a bondservant of Jesus Christ (1a)**

bondservant - **doulos** an individual bound to another in servitude; conveys the idea of the slave's close, binding ties with his master

- ✚ Paul was a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, **(Romans 1:1)**
- ✚ Timothy was a bondservant of Jesus Christ **(Philippians 1:1)**
- ✚ Simon Peter was a bondservant of Jesus Christ **(2 Peter 1:1)**
- ✚ James was a bond-servant of the Lord Jesus Christ **(James 1:1)**

- ❖ **How do you become a bondservant of Jesus Christ?**

- ✚ When you realize Jesus died for you because He loved you
- ✚ When you realize your life does not belong to you, but to Christ
- ✚ When you realize you desire to do His will more than your will

✧ **The will of the doulos is consumed in the will of the master.**

- Jude was the brother of James (1b)

Which James?

- ✚ James the apostle, brother of John the apostle (Mark 1:19)
- ✚ James the apostle, son of Alphaeus (James the younger) (Mark 3:18)
- ✚ James, the father of the apostle Thaddaeus (Judas) (Luke 6:16)
- ✚ James, the half-brother of Jesus

- ✓ Jesus was rejected by the people of Nazareth, His home town

Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? Matthew 13:54-56 (Greek is Judas)

- ✓ Jesus was rejected by His brothers

And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:21

- ✓ Jesus was rejected as Messiah by His brothers

John 7:3-5

³ His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. ⁴ For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world." ⁵ **For even His brothers did not believe in Him.**

- ✧ Conclusion: Jude is the brother of James and half-brother of Jesus

- ❖ Neither James or Jude identified themselves as the half-brother of Jesus

- ✧ They went from rejecting their brother, rejecting Him as Messiah, to becoming bondservants of Jesus Christ

- ❖ We see a great insight into the siblings of Jesus in 1 Corinthians

1Corinthians 9:5 (NKJV)

Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas?

❖ The Lord's brothers and their wives took missionary journeys.

✧ Can you imagine Jude and his brothers and their wives going from town to town telling the story of the Messiah?

■ **Recipients: Called, Loved and Kept (Jude 1c-2)**

Jude 1c-2 (ESV)

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: ² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

- They were called

✧ “They were invited by God through the proclamation of the Gospel to obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom.”

- They were loved

beloved - (**agapao**) love based on evaluation and choice

❖ God chose to love us!

❖ The perfect tense speaks of this as an eternal love of God

Romans 8:38-39 (NKJV)

³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- They were kept

preserved – to keep one where they are

✧ God is not guarding us so we will not escape, but He is watching over us, caring for us until eternity with His preserving grace

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

Therefore, He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

■ Reason: A Letter of Necessity (Jude 3)

• Jude's first thought (3a)

- ❖ This was going to be a kind and joyous letter about the salvation they shared in Christ
- ❖ Jude was eager to write about the salvation they had in common

common - open to all, share, a partner

- ❖ He is describing the salvation that genuine believers everywhere share. "a common salvation" possessed in common with others." (Wuest)

• Jude's chosen battle (3b)

- ❖ The Holy Spirit took Jude in a different direction
- ❖ Jude had found "a hill worth dying on"

necessity - constraint or compulsion

✪ Jude senses a compelling obligation, by the Holy Spirit, to correct the subtle doctrinal errors

contend earnestly - agony in an effort to win the contest

- ❖ What is the hill worth dying on?
- ❖ Our faith, what we believe about Jesus Christ

Close

- ✚ How important is your faith?
- ✚ How important is scripture?
- ✚ How important is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ?

Closing verse

Jude 1c

To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

