

Called, Loved, and Kept
Jude Series #1
Jude v1-4
November 6, 2022

PreSermon Remarks

- Jude, Advent, Parables of Jesus

Introduction

How do you get someone to act in a certain way?

1) Reason, 2) Scare, 3) Appeal to their heart, who they truly are | **Pete Carroll with Tyler Lockett**

** Transition to Jude. This short letter is intended to get people to Act. But that's not the start

(big idea) Knowing who you are leads to knowing what to do || Identity before behavior

The Author

Jude¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James: To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.³ Dear friends...

1. Very common name | Judah, Judas, Jude, Judea
 - a. Think of James-Jamie-Jimmy-Jim | In the Greek it's the full Judah
2. Not Judah Barsabbas | Acts 15:22-32
 - a. No mention of "brother of James" in that passage, which would be expected because of the notoriety of James
3. Not one of the twelve | Luke 6:16
 - a. Two disciples named Judas: Iscariot, and "Son of James."
 - i. Son of James is different than brother of James
4. Brother of James and Jesus | Matthew 13:55
 - a. Technically half-brother. James, Joseph, Judah, Simon
 - b. Side note: all "James" in the NT are actually "Jacob." | Not King James, wives tale
 - i. Ya'akob (Hb) > Iakóbos (Gk) > Jacobus / Jacomus (Lt) > Gemmes (Fr)

Tom Schreiner The designation points to a Jude who is well known and to a James who is well known. The author felt no need to identify himself further, suggesting a well-established reputation in the community. If we examine others with the name "Jude" in early Christianity, it is clear that no other candidate fits the authorship of this letter...He was one of the four brothers of Jesus (Matt 13:55; Mark 6:3)...The evidence we have suggests that Jude did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah during the latter's ministry (Mark 3:21, 31; John 7:5). He likely became a believer after the resurrection since Acts 1:14 says the Lord's brothers were part of the prayer meetings prior to Pentecost. We learn from 1 Cor 9:5 that the Lord's brothers were itinerant missionaries, and Jude probably was included here. His missionary work would explain his writing to the church in an authoritative manner.

The Audience

Jude¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James: To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.³ Dear friends...

1. Likely Jewish | Themes and references
 - a. No specific church named, but likely church in Israel, not out in the Gentile world
2. Likely one church | Specific circumstances
 - a. Possibly a circular letter, obviously it “got out” to us later, but most likely one

Sidebar: Other Writings

- 2 Peter | Twelve of twenty-five verses
 - Shared source? One borrowed? [More on the website](#)
- Jewish writings | 1 Enoch, Assumption of Moses
 - Those writings are not inspired, but referenced/quoted in inspired scripture

The Occasion

Jude³ ...although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write, appealing to you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints once for all.⁴ For some people, who were designated for this judgment long ago, have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into sensuality and denying Jesus Christ, our only Master and Lord.

- So much of the New Testament is helping the fledgling Jesus movement stay on track

This Faith Is About...

- Salvation through grace | *salvation, grace*
- A community of people | *we share*
- Our eternal destiny | *judgment, v21 eternal life*
- Jesus the King | *Christ (king), Master, Lord*

The False Teachers (extensive discussion next Sunday)

- Not about ignorance | *destined for destruction*
- Not about honest discussion | *stealth*
- It is about the flesh | *sensuality*
- It is about denying Jesus | *who gets to be master?*

Now, Jude is going to 1) reason with the people, and 2) he’s going to scare the people (in a good way). But do you see where he starts? **IDENTITY!**

Identity in Christ

Jude¹ Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James: To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.

- The called...loved...kept

Called: The Need for Identity and Purpose

- Purpose is tied to identity
 - God in Genesis | Naming and purpose
 - Parents with children | Names have meaning
- Purpose: why am I here? What am I supposed to do with my life?
 - VOCATION = Calling
- **Taylor Swift** We are so many things, all the time. And I know it can be really overwhelming figuring out who to be, and when. Who you are now and how to act in order to get where you want to go. I have some good news: It's totally up to you. I also have some terrifying news: It's totally up to you.

Loved: The Need for Connection

- Defining "love" can be really hard
 - Obvious: affection, care, help, support
 - Biblical: 1 Cor 13 list, patience, kindness, not envy or boast, not selfish
 - Baseline: Connection! | You can't truly love in the abstract
 - "I love Chris Cornell" | Admiration
 - "I love the way that person looks" | At best, admiration. At worst, lust
- Connection is a fundamental human need
 - Failure to thrive in infants
 - Sociopath = relational disorder, result is disconnection from others
- God draws us near. Leviticus! Or James 4:8 *draw near to God and he will draw near to you*
 - Like when I tell my kids "get over here"

Kept: The Need for Safety

- Life is hard, with many challenges and pitfalls. How do you know that you'll "make it" home?
- Safety in: 1) Money, 2) Relationships, 3) The Group (politics or other), 4) Personal Strength

Belonging to Jesus

In Christ, we have calling, identity, and purpose | Adopted and named, share the gospel

In Christ, we are loved and connected to God | Spirit poured out into our very selves

In Christ, we are completely and eternally safe | No one will snatch you out of his hand

Love, Purpose, Safety

Ephesians 2 ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! ⁶He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—⁹not from works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

(big idea) If your identity is not grounded in Jesus, you will seek purpose, love, and safety from lesser, even dangerous sources.

**Whatever these false teachers are peddling, it's tied to these three human needs

- Purpose: work, family, success, charity, community, entertainment
- Connection: sexual immorality, bleeding your friends/family dry
- Safety: money, power, control, personal pride, politics, group belonging

All these will fall short. Only Jesus can provide what our hearts truly need.

Scripture Reading

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