Jude #3

Growing, Loving, and Secure

Jude 20-25 Scripture Reading: Jude 20-25

11/20/22

**Introduction:**

I have traveled quite a bit this year and have taken many flights. At the beginning of each flight the flight crew performs a safety briefing. If you have flown, you will remember this is the part you never really pay any attention. In the safety briefing they mention that if there is a change in cabin pressure a mask will drop down to provide oxygen. In that portion of the briefing, they instruct you to place the mask on yourself before helping others.

 In our culture today there is a lot of conversation about self-care. I am a big fan of self-care, but I am also aware that we humans will take a good thing and use it for evil. Such is the case with self-care. The Bible instructs us to care for ourselves but if not carried out in the right spirit it can become selfish and self-centered. As we go through this passage today, I want to warn you that self-care is ongoing as we help others, we cannot forget the second of the greatest commandments until we get ourselves “right”. Remember our illustration of the oxygen masks, we have to help ourselves, then we help others but remember the biggest part of that illustration is not the masks or the people… it’s the pilot we can put on our mask and help others with theirs but if the pilot can’t land the plane, we are all in trouble.

**The Big Idea: Jesus is our only hope in this life and for Eternity.**

1. **Growing In Faith Vs. 20-21**

When I think about growing in faith my first thought is the Spiritual Disciplines. Fasting, silence, solitude, celebration, prayer, scripture reading, and of course sabbath. All of those are true but, in our passage, there are three things that Jude instructs us when it comes to self-care or our continued growth in the faith.

* 1. **Pray in the Spirit**

Prayer is our connection our conversation with God. To pray in the Spirit is to pray in oneness with the God head. It is to be in agreement with God’s will. I once heard that prayer is more about God changing your heart than His mind.

* 1. **Stay in God’s Love**

There is a phrase we use in Christianity “back-slidden”. That phrase has a connotation about living in sin or away from God. Jude is encouraging us to not allow ourselves to be moved from His presence.

* 1. **Look to Eternity**

Another old Christian phrase goes something like this: don’t be so heavenly minded that you are no earthly good; but don’t be so earthly minded that you are no heavenly good. The idea here is to remember that our hope lies in eternity. We are not promised a life of leisure, we are promised suffering.

1. **Loving Others Vs. 22 - 23**

The phrase loving others should conjure up thoughts of the second of the greatest commands. “Love your neighbor as you love yourself”. This is in fact exactly what Jude is alluding to, but he also gives us some specifics on how to carry that out.

* 1. **Have mercy with those who waver**

The idea here is that we all have common struggles. John writes, “if we say we have no sin we call God a liar”. So, the idea here is to show mercy as you want to have mercy shown to you. We are all a work in progress. Do not put more on others than you are willing to bear yourself.

* 1. **Be strong with those in the grip of temptation**

This is where we as a church, capital C church have really missed the mark. We are trained to be merciful that we do not understand that sometimes mercy comes in the form of stern correction. Who better to push one another, or as the writer of Hebrews says, “And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works”. Sometimes we need to “yell” to get someone’s attention.

* 1. **Stay vigilant with those who have strayed**

I want to be careful with this one because I don’t want you to get the wrong idea. The folks that Jude is talking about here have left Christianity. These are folks where we would say “the best or only thing for them is to pray”. These are not folks that are doubting or struggling with the truth, these are folks that have rejected the truth as a lie. We are encouraged here to grieve but to keep our distance.

1. **Secure in Jesus Vs. 24 -25**
	1. **Jesus makes us Stand**

If we attempt self-care or others care in our own power, we are doomed to fail. But if we rely on the promise that He will protect us from stumbling and make us to stand then we will be victorious. Not by our workings but by Him.

* 1. **Jesus Makes us Pure**

The scripture says that we will be in the presence of His glory without blemish and with great joy. What is it that makes us without blemish? It is the sacrifice of Jesus. His death, burial, and resurrection that secures for those that believe, forgiveness of sins and an eternal life in communion with God.

* 1. **Jesus deserves all praise**

As a result of all this that Jude has taught us, not just what we studied today but in all three sermons we can have no other conclusion, but that Jesus deserves all the glory, majesty, power, and authority.

**Conclusion:**

So, what does that mean for you and for me? It means that we need to continue to grow in out faith. We need to Love others and we need to trust in Jesus. Trust Him that He will do what He said He would do.