

Sunday, August 27, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Six Vivid Pictures

Series: Jude, An Ancient Letter Written to Believers of THIS Day ... 9

Text: Text: Jude 1:1 – 25 (vs. 12 - 13)

Purpose: I want to INFORM my congregation of some of the traits of apostate teachers.

Introduction:

Review of last week's devotional:

1) Way of Cain, 2) Way of Balaam, 3) Way of Korah

~ Jude 1:12 & 13, "*These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear; shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; (13) wild waves of the sea, casting up foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*"

1. Picture of Hidden Reefs:

~ vs. 12, "These are hidden reefs..." G4694 spilias

~ Personal account of hidden reef at Oyster Bay, Vancouver Island

~ Remember vs. 4, "*For certain people have crept in unnoticed...*"

~ Like Judas at the 'Last Supper,' the disciples did not realize the true character of Judas

(Matthew 26:20 – 28). The tragedy is we may not recognize the 'reefs' that would enter among true believers.

~ 2 Peter 2:13, "*suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing. They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you.*" Blots – G4696 spilios

2. Picture of Selfish Shepherds:

~ vs. 12, "shepherds feeding themselves..."

~ Isaiah 56:10 – 11, "*His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber. (11) The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all.*"

~ Ezekiel 34:2, "*Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the LORD GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?"*

~ 2 Corinthians 11:20, "*For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.*"

3. Picture of Empty Clouds:

~ vs. 12, "*waterless clouds, swept along by winds...*"

~ Proverbs 25:14, "*Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.*"

~ 2 Peter 2:19, "*they promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.*"

~ Positive words;

~ Deuteronomy 32:2, "*May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb.*"

~ Isaiah 55:10 - 11

4. Picture of Dead Trees:

~ vs. 12, "*fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;*"

~ Matthew 7:16, "*You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"*

~ Ephesians 5:11, "*Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*"

~ Matthew 15:13, "*He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up."*

~ 2 Peter 1:8, "*For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

5. Picture of Wild Waves:

~ vs. 13, "*wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame...*"

~ At least one writer that I referenced suggest that this might well include flotsam; that is, "*the wreckage of a ship or its cargo found floating on or washed up by the sea.*"

~ 1 Timothy 1:19, "*holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith.*"

~ Isaiah 57:20 - 21, "*But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. (21) There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."*"

6. Picture of Wandering Stars:

~ vs. 13, "*wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*"

~ This is the only use of the Greek word translated 'wandering' in the New Testament. The idea seems to be a rover; that is not in a fixed orbit like planets, comets, or celestial bodies in set locations. Can you imagine attempting to navigate by the North Star if it did not hold a fixed position but wandered about? Wandering stars might best be understood as a shooting star.

~ God's desire is, "*that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.*"

Conclusion:

Jude 1:3, "*Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.*"