



SERMON QUESTIONS

Jude 1-4 | May 20, 2017

GATHERING

1. How much of your identity comes from your family of origin? Do you think of yourself as your parents' child, or sibling of someone? Do other people see you that way or is your family history in the distance?
2. Complete this sentence to yourself five times changing what you put in the blank: "I am _____,"
3. How many identities did you have before you got to "follower of Jesus?"

LOOKING AT THE TEXT

Read Jude 1-4

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

To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for^a Jesus Christ:

²Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

*³Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the **salvation we share**, I felt compelled to write and urge you to **contend** for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. ⁴For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about^b long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our **only** Sovereign and Lord.*

1. Jude calls himself the brother of James, most scholars think that this must be James the leader of the early church, the author of the Epistle of James and the brother of Jesus. Obviously if James is the brother of Jesus then Jude is as well, yet he does not say that. Why do you think he omits this fact (James does the same thing in his letter)?
2. Jesus' brothers did not believe he was the Messiah – see John 7:1-5, Mark 3:20-21. Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. What does this tell us about why James may have become a believer?
3. Jude uses three expressions to describe his audience. What are they? What do you think it means that we are "kept" for Jesus Christ? What does that say about God's involvement in our lives.

4. He also uses three words of prayer or blessing in verse 2. Why do you think he prays that "mercy" might be theirs?
5. Verse 3 seems to indicate that Jude was planning on writing a letter about the salvation we share. That would have been a positive and celebratory letter. But he feels compelled to do something else. What is the focus of the letter instead?
6. What do you think it means to "contend for the faith?" What do you think it means that the faith was "once for all entrusted to God's holy people" (literally 'the saints')?
7. The faith we have received can be threatened in many ways. People can change it by adding something to it – Jesus plus ... Or people can subtract from it, Jesus without ... Can you think of examples of either?
8. Jude's big concern is in verse 4. What has happened in the church he is writing to? How does Jude describe these people how can we know them when we see them?

APPLICATIONS

1. Jude wants us to contend for the faith and to be wary of those who are trying to undermine it. What do you think are the essentials of the faith? What should we all agree on?
2. What is the difference between churches having different visions and focuses and the threat that Jude is talking about?
3. Contrast these opening verses with Jude 20-23. How do Jude's closing words balance the notion of "contending?"
4. What do you think is the biggest threat to your faith?