

Sermon: Hey Jude (Part I)

Text: Jude vv. 1-16

Discussion Questions:

We read in **Mark 6:1-3**:

Jesus left there and went to His hometown, accompanied by His disciples. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given Him? What are these remarkable miracles He is performing? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

We see a very similar account in **Matthew 13:53-57**:

When Jesus had finished these parables, He moved on from there. Coming to His hometown, He began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't His mother's name Mary, and aren't His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all His sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at Him.

- What are the similarities between these two accounts?
- What are the differences between these two accounts?
- How many (half) siblings did Jesus have? What do you notice about the list of the brother's names?

We also get a clue from **Mark 3:20-21; 31-32** (a very strong one!) what Jesus' family thought about Jesus early-on in His ministry:

Then He went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when His family heard it, they went out to seize Him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." ...Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call Him. A crowd was sitting around Him, and they told Him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

- Does it surprise you that Mary was responding this way? What do you think was going through her mind?
- Put yourself in the sandals of Jesus' brothers and sisters. What would be going through your head when your brother claimed to be the Son of God?

Thinking about these things helps us put into perspective the New Testament books of James and Jude. Jude is a shortening (or a nick-name) of the name Judas (or Judah). It is widely believed that James and Jude are two of Jesus' brothers! How does this impact the way you read these two books? How amazing is it that these two men call Jesus their Lord & Savior?

Examination:

- Read **Jude vv. 1-2:**
 - Jude identifies himself as a “servant” of Jesus Christ, and a “brother” of James. If it’s true that Jude (or Judas) was a brother to both Jesus and James, why do you think he refers to Jesus as his master, and to James as his brother?
 - Think about the HUGE difference between what we see in Mark 3 (when Jude thought Jesus was OUT OF HIS MIND), and what we now read in the Book of Jude. What do you think happened? What do you think changed Jude’s mind in such a dramatic way? How could Jude (and James) go from thinking that their older half-brother was CRAZY, to now referring to Jesus as “Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.” (v. 4)?
 - When Jude refers to himself as a “servant of Jesus Christ,” what do you think he means by that?
 - Jude addresses this letter to people who have been “called,” “loved,” and “kept.” Talk about what these three words mean. Do you believe you are called, loved and kept?

- Read **Jude vv. 3-4:**
 - What did Jude WANT to write about? Why do you think he desired to write about this? If you were to write a letter about the salvation we share, what would you say?
 - Instead of writing about our salvation, Jude felt compelled to write about something else. What was that something else?
 - Take a closer look at verse 4. What is the heart of the problem? What lies are these “ungodly people” telling? Why is this such a big deal?
 - What do you think it means to “pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality”? How do we see this happening in our world today?

- Read **Jude vv. 5-16:**
 - Jude now launches into a series of examples, describing how God holds ungodly people (and even angels!) accountable for their sin, unbelief and rebellion. He mentions the Israelites who failed to trust God following the exodus (Exodus-Deuteronomy); the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19); Cain who killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4); the false-prophet Balaam (Numbers 22-24); & Korah who led a group of 250 to rebel against Moses (Numbers 16). Jude’s purpose in referring to all of these people is for us to understand that God will (and already has!) hold each of them accountable for their sin. And the reason this is so important to Jude is that this kind of rebellion IS HAPPENING AGAIN! People like Cain, and Korah, and the people of Sodom are among us today. They have “secretly slipped in among you” (v. 4), present in our gatherings, and fellowshiping with us in church. (v. 12)
 - Talk about this. Why does Jude seem to be “going off” on this issue? What does he so desperately want us to understand? Do you believe this continues to happen in our day and time, and in our churches? How so? How are we to respond? How do we know when we’re being led down the path to judgment?

Application:

Take this seriously. Sadly, there are so many people in our culture who would view these things as the rantings of a religious lunatic. Jude is issuing a warning. He’s calling us to be in prayer, and on our guard. Have the courage to contend for the faith. Study God’s Word, and stand up for the Truth.