

## Sermon: Hey Jude (Part 2)

Text: Jude vv. 17-25

### Discussion Questions:

Last Sunday's message concluded with the phrase: "I don't need to remind you that we live in crazy days."

There are certainly many different ways to look at this. Crazyness comes in many shapes and sizes! But whichever way you want to "spin the rubik's cube"—we see various shades of crazy on every side.

Let's begin today by talking about truth. Or perhaps I should better say: Truth (with a capital "T"). Simply bringing up the subject raises a hundred questions:

- If you were to conduct a "man on the street" interview in downtown New York City, what kind of answers would you get to the question: "What is Truth?"
- How do you think the answers would vary between those who were younger, and those who were older? Would gender, income or ethnicity make a difference?
- Do you think the answers you would get on the street here in Franklin County be different from the answers you would get in NYC? Would the answers differ even more if you asked the same question in Europe? In China? In Saudi Arabia?
- How has the definition of Truth changed over the course of the last 200 years? Why?

Talk for a few minutes about gender identity.

- Do you remember gender identity even being discussed 30 years ago (if you've been alive that long)?
- How is our culture trying to redefine gender identity?
- Is gender something that a person can "decide"?
- What are some of the "crazy" directions this lack of gender specificity might take us as a culture in the years to come? Where is this trend taking us?

What do you know about the impact drugs are having in our world?

- How prevalent is the drug epidemic?
- What do you know about opioid use and overdose statistics?
- What impact is the illicit use of drugs having on our homes? Our community?

How about poverty, and the cycle of poverty?

- How does this issue impact our community?
- What can be done to help people escape the cycle of poverty?

And the list goes on. Political divisions. Immigration. The erosion of the nuclear family. The proliferation of pornography. The health crisis. Mental health issues.

**[Don't take the entire class time talking about these issues! Save some time to turn the page, and take a look at what Jude has to say to us! We MUST REMEMBER that outside of the love of God, the Truth of God's Word, the wisdom of fellow-believers, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be hopelessly sucked up in all the crazy!]**

## Examination:

- Read **Jude vv. 17-19**:
  - Verses 4-16 of this letter strike a fairly harsh tone, with numerous references to judgment and “woe”—and citing the examples of Sodom and Gomorrah. Jude pulls no punches when it comes to issuing a severe warning against the ungodly people who are infiltrating the ranks of believers—as well as to those who listen to them and are carried away by their lies. This being the case, how do the words “Dear friends” signal a shift in the tone of the final section of the letter?
  - What does it mean to “stay in your lane” with respect to understanding where your authority lies and what your position is? Refer back to verse 6—what sin did the angels commit in this regard? In contrast to these rebellious angels (most likely referring to the angels described in Genesis 6:1-4 who had sexual relations with humans, which played a significant part in God’s decision to send a worldwide flood), what does Jude say about the archangel Michael in terms of the fact that he “stayed in his lane”? How does Jude reveal in verse 17 that he’s also a person who understands and respects authority?
  - According to verse 18, what did the apostles foretell?
  - What kind of “craziness” comes to your mind when you think about “scoffers who follow their own ungodly desires”? How does the world view Christians who take a Biblical stance with respect to Truth and morality?
  - How did the press respond to Vice President Mike Pence when he declared that he would not meet (or drive) with a woman without a third person being present? Is this an example of the kind of scoffing that believers can expect? What other examples can you think of?
  - How do these scoffers and ungodly people threaten to divide those who are children of God? What can believers do to counteract these attacks and attempts to divide?
  
- Read **Jude vv. 20-23**:
  - Jude focuses his attention in verse 20 on two key aspects of discipleship: building yourself up in the faith; and praying in the Holy Spirit. Talk about what you think these things mean, and how you do them.
  - The tone of the letter completely shifts in verse 21, when Jude now talks about the love of God, and the mercy of Jesus Christ. How do these things bring us eternal life?
  - Not only are WE shown mercy in Jesus, Jude now commands us to BE MERCIFUL to those who doubt. (v. 22) What does this have to say regarding our response to the craziness that surrounds us?
  - Jude’s true heart comes out in verse 23. His passion is for God to use each of us to save others by snatching them from the fire of judgment. According the rest of verse 23, how do we do this? What do you think Jude means when he says, “mixed with fear”?
  - How is the benediction in the final two verses a blessing to you?

## Application:

How willing are you to speak out for God, even when you know that you are likely to be ridiculed or scoffed at? Look for an opportunity this week to speak up regarding your faith. Do it with an awareness of the mercy of God, and understanding that by speaking up, you might help save a soul.