

“Three Truths Never To Forget”

Jude 5-7

Introduction: 1) With each passing day our culture moves further and further away from the God revealed in the Bible. Unbelief, rebellion and immorality (the 3 sins Jude highlights in vs. 5-7) characterize with greater intensity and influence our way of life. The evidence is so prevalent one hardly knows where to begin. Of course, as you would expect, the world of sex tops the charts.

2) Hollywood elites have been giddy with praise over *Brokeback Mountain*, a gay cowboy love story. Now Willie Nelson has brought “out of the closet” a gay cowboy love song written over 20 years ago entitled “Cowboys Are Secretly, Frequently Fond of Each Other.” Listen to a few of the lyrics.

There’s many a strange impulse out on the plains of West Texas; There’s many a young boy who feels things he don’t comprehend. Well small town don’t like it when somebody falls between sexes, No small town don’t like it when a cowboy has feelings for men.

Well I believe in my soul that inside every man there’s a feminine, And inside every lady there’s a deep manly voice loud and clear. Well, a cowboy may brag about things that he does with the women, But the ones who brag loudest are the ones that are most likely queer. Cowboys are frequently secretly fond of each other,

There’s many a cowboy who don’t understand the way the he feels towards his brother, Inside every cowboy there’s a lady who’d love to slip out. Ten men for each woman was the rule way back when on the prairie, And somehow those cowboys must have kept themselves warm late at night.

Cowboys are frequently, secretly fond of each other. That’s why they wear leather, and Levi’s and belt buckled tight. There’s many a cowboy who don’t understand the way that he feels toward his brother; There’s a many a cowboy who’s more like a lady at night.

* I wonder how well Willie’s new release is doing across the West Texas plains?!

3) Let’s move to the West Coast where the *L.A. Times* recently (Feb. 2006) reported on “condom parties” or what is known as “Glove Affairs.” Some middle schools host the parties. Writer Randy Hoder described what he encountered with his own 13 year old (8th grade) daughter:

“The truth is, when Emma arrived home the previous Saturday night clutching a goody bag from Glove Affair, my liberal credentials were instantly tested. One by one I pulled the following from her white plastic sack: a condom, pamphlets

on masturbation, oral sex and intercourse; the “Rubber Bible,” featuring alternative names for prophylactics, such as “*****” and “*****”, and an information wheel labeled “Condom Comebacks,” which included a list of excuses boys might make for not wearing a condom and possible rejoinders a girl could offer.

Him: “It doesn’t feel good.” Her: “I’ve got moves rubbers can’t stop.”

I tried to play it cool. As it turned out, I was a little too cool. While standing in the kitchen with my daughter and her friend, getting all the post-party gossip, I absentmindedly reached into the bag and handed my 8-year-old son a squishy red toy that resembled one of those ubiquitous M&M candy guys. The girls burst out laughing. “What’s so funny?” I asked. They snatched the trinket from my son and turned it upside down. Printed there was the web address stopthesores.org. This was no candy icon; it was a toy syphilis lesion, bright red, with feet.”

3) Travel back with me to the East Coast. The situation is just as tragic and bizarre as we look into the “Cuddle Puddle!” In the February 6, 2006 edition of *New York*, the cover story was entitled “Love and the Ambisexual, Heteroflexible Teen.” At a local New York City high school students gather during their free period where, “there are girls petting girls and girls petting guys and guys petting guys.” Students greet each other sexually by grabbing various body parts, and they describe themselves as “polysexual, ambisexual, pansexual, pansensual, polyfide, bi-curious, bi-queer, fluid, metroflexible, heteroflexible, heterosexual with lesbian tendencies or just sexual.” Author Alex Morris notes, “The terms are designed less to achieve specificity than to leave all options open.” For these teens the only sin is sexual repression. Morris writes, “to these kids, homophobia is as socially shunned as racism to the generation before them. They say it is practically the one thing that is not tolerated at their school.”

Transition: I could continue but the point has been made and the evidence is clear. We have turned our back on God and His Word, shunned His standards and mocked His character. The culture is where it is, in part, because the Church is where it is. Unbelief, rebellion, and immorality run to and fro across the land. Question: 1) What does God think? 2) What will God do? Jude 5-7 provides the answer with “3 Truths Never To Forget.”

I. Remember the danger of unbelief v. 5

- Verse 5-7 flow directly from Jude’s warning in v. 4 about false teachers. Indeed judgment opens and closes the literary unit of vs. 5-16. The false teachers were “marked out,” designated for judgment long ago because their sin resembles the sin of 3 well known events in Old Testament history: God’s judgment of Israel for unbelief, God’s judgment of fallen angels for rebellion, and God’s judgment of Sodom & Gomorrah for immorality. He begins with Israel because: 1) they were God’s chosen people and 2) because unbelief is at the heart of all sin.

- He tells them, “now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all” (*NASB*). This reading connects his reminder to the “once for all delivered faith” of v. 3. These historical events are not new news to them anymore than the gospel was now new to them. Still, in our human sinfulness, we are prone to forget, to neglect lessons and truths from the past. This can be fatal as Jude makes clear, so he sounds the call: “remember!” Jude begins with his first of 7 Old Testament references in this epistle.

1) Do not trust in the security of a past experience.

- Verse 5 reads literally, “The Lord a people out of Egypt saved (*NIV*, delivered).” God saw the plight of His chosen people and He rescued them out of Egypt. He sent plagues on Egypt, parted the Red Sea, destroyed Pharaoh’s army, provided manna, quails and water. He was their glory cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. They had an incredible past, a marvelous legacy.
- However, the issue for them and the issue for us is this: Are you trusting God today? Are you trusting God now? Not once does the Word of God tell us to look back to a past experience for our security. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”
- Walking an aisle, praying a prayer, signing a card, going into water, these are not the avenues of assurance. Today, right now, are you looking to the Cross, are you trusting Christ?

Transition: Do not trust in the security of a past experience.

2) Do not trust in the security of a future expectation.

- Jude says “afterwards” (subsequently, later) the Lord destroyed, wiped out “those who did not believe.” Jude has in mind Numbers 14 when the 12 spies returned from their reconnaissance mission into the Promised Land. The majority report of 10 said we can’t do this. They are giants and we are grasshoppers. The minority report of 2 (Joshua and Caleb) said no problem. After all Grasshoppers plus God can beat any Giants! However, the people who had seen God do so much now in unbelief said, “well He can’t do this.” The result: every person 20 and over died. All of them! They missed the promise land. They missed God’s best. Forgetting God’s grace and greatness, they dug their graves in the wilderness in sight of the land God had promised.
- **Personal Application:** Question: are you trusting God today? Not in the past and not even in the future. Today, right now, are you trusting God to sustain you, keep you, lead you, provide for you? Are you like far too many in the Church whose lives say, “He saved me in the past and he’ll take me to heaven in the future. But right now, I’m not so sure. I’ve got many issues, family issues, health issues. Things are

hard, God is silent, ministry is not what I thought it would be. If I don't take care of things then . . .

- Unbelief destroyed the Hebrew people. Unbelief in the providence and goodness of God describes the apostates! Remember the danger today of unbelief.

II. Remember the dishonor of rebellion.

v. 6

- One of the most difficult verses in the Bible to interpret is right here. Who is Jude talking about? Who was Peter talking about in the parallel text in 2 Peter 2:4?

Three views have been set forth:

- 1) An unknown fall of angels not recorded in Scripture.
 - 2) The original fall of Satan (typified in Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28).
 - 3) The episode in Genesis 6 where fallen angels had sex and cohabited with women and produced an evil race of men that brought God's judgment on the world through the flood.
- Why view three?
 - 1) It is overwhelming the view of Jewish tradition (Schreiner, 447-51).
 - 2) The parallel with 1 Enoch is so strong and it clearly sees Genesis 6 as fallen angels cohabiting with women.
 - 3) Sons of God in the Old Testament consistently refers to angelic beings (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7).
 - 4) When angels appear in Scripture they always appear in the male gender and can function like human persons.
 - 5) Matthew 22:30 does not say angels do not have sexuality, but that they do not marry or reproduce. Further, Jesus specifically speaks of angels "in heaven." The Sons of God in Genesis 6 came to earth, as fallen angels or demons.
 - 6) The phrase "in similar manner to these" in v. 7 connect the sexual immorality of Sodom & Gomorrah with the angels of v. 6.
 - 7) This best explains why some demons are bound and some are free. The heinous nature of their sin brought a more severe judgment in terms of time on these fallen angels.
 - However, let's not lose sight of the plain meaning in terms of application of the text. There are two principles for life we should respect that these fallen angels rejected.

1) Accept God's plan for your life.

- These angels were not satisfied with God's plan for them. They were convinced there was something better and God's way was not the best way.
- First, they did not keep their proper domain (*NIV*, "positions of authority"). Second, "they left their own abode" (they deserted and abandoned their own homes). Their place and position in God's plan was not enough. They want something more, a different position of

prominence, a better place of activity. Sound too much like too many ministers today! Through self-deception men, like these angels, rationalize their lust for position, power, prestige and possessions. With an inflated sense of self-worth and importance, they cannot trust in the providence of God and rest in His plan.

- **Personal Application:** Are you content with and confident that God knows what He is doing in your life? Or is your heart gripped by a spirit of rebellion, especially if you suspect what God has for you is not what you want for yourself!

2) Respect God's power over you.

- Not content with heaven, these angels get hell! Absolutely unbelievable. They would not keep their home in heaven, so God keeps their home in hell.
- Think about what their rebellion cost them:
 - Heaven → hell
 - Servant God → slave of Satan
 - Light → darkness
 - Freedom → chains
 - Joy in His presence → judgment in perdition
 - Awesome privilege → awesome punishment
 - Great honor → incredible disgrace
- Revelation brings responsibility. Their responsibility was greater than any. Our responsibility is greater than most. God is God and we are not! Accept His plan for your life. Respect His power over your life. You will . . . one way or another.
- **Personal Application:** Are you submitting to God?

III. Remember the destiny of the immoral. v. 7

- No story impacted the people of God like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is referenced one way or another more than 20 times in the Bible. The devastation of these cities, along with Admah and Zeboiim (note “the cities around them”) was so horrific they stand as a perpetual reminder (“example”) of the just judgment of God on sin, especially sexual sin. Sodom and Gomorrah were known for their pride and disregard for the poor (Ezk. 16:49), their arrogance, injustice, and bigotry. But it was their sexual perversion that marked them. Finally there came a time when God's grace said “enough!” Genesis 19 records the cataclysmic judgment as “the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah from the Lord out of the heavens “(Gen. 19:24).
- Jude is specific in his brief analysis of the judgment God brought. Two telling truths scream for our attention.

1) Sexual perversion can consume you.

- Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities acted in a manner similar to the fallen angels of v. 6. They committed sexual immorality (*ekporneuo*) and went after *sarkos heteras*. This reference to strange flesh is not the flesh of angels (they did not know the persons in Lot's house were actually men), but the flesh of other men. Their sin was homosexuality. In this context let me say several things:
 - 1) The Bible is clear in its denunciation of homosexuality as sin. This is made plain in text like Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10.
 - 2) The Bible is equally clear that any sexual activity, heterosexual or homosexual, outside the marriage covenant between a man and a woman is sin. Jesus Himself said a man and woman in marriage become one flesh. Jesus was clear on the sex question.
 - 3) Those in slavery to sexual sin need to be loved, including homosexuals, lesbians and any others. We do not hatefully bash them, we graciously speak the truth in love and reach out to them with grace, mercy and kindness.
 - 4) Rampant sexual sin is not the worst sin, but it is the clearest evidence of a society that has rejected God's truth and has been given over to His judgment (Romans 1:24, 26, 28).

2) Eternal punishment can claim you.

- The cities of the plains are a perpetual reminder that sin is serious to God and that God will judge it. The Bible tells us in Matthew 25:41 that Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. Jude 6 backs this up. Jude 7, however, affirms that unbelieving, rebellious and immoral humans will also be there.
- Hell is real and hell is eternal. It is a place of suffering, sadness and separation. It helps explain the necessity of the cross, and why of the 12 times the word *Gehenna* (Hell) appears in the Bible, 11 are on the lips of Jesus. So terrible is its reality that Jesus said in Matthew 5:27-30 it would be better to enter the kingdom with only one eye or one hand than to have your whole body cast into hell.
- Hell is a bad place. Eternity is a long, long time. The unbelieving, rebellious, and immoral will unfortunately find their destiny in this place.

Conclusion: Let me close on a positive note. It is found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. If any New Testament city approached the wickedness and immorality of Sodom and Gomorrah it was Corinth. Idolatry, greed, pagan philosophy and immorality was the air it breathed. But Paul brought the gospel, determining "not to know anything among [them] except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). What was the result? What happened? Listen to what Paul wrote:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor

homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Yes God will judge unbelief, rebellion and the immoral. But He will also forgive the same and much more if they are washed in the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus.