Lesson 1 – Jude 1-13 Part 1 - Keep Watch and Contend for the Faith: Identify the Internal Enemy
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

(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. For certain people have crept in unnoticed --- who long ago were designated for this condemnation --- ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

(5) Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus --- who saved a people out of the land of Egypt --- afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, He has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day --- just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

(8) Yet in like manner these people also --- relying on their dreams --- defile the flesh, reject authority, and blaspheme the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you." But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.

(11) Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. These are hidden reefs (Gr., a blemish) 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; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering starts, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

Think on These Things

1) How does Jude introduce himself? Who is he related to (see also Mark 6:3)? Who does he say he is writing to?

   "A servant of Jesus, a brother of James" --- hence, Jesus' brother also (Mk. 6:3). James, Jesus' brother, became the leader of the Jerusalem church after the death and resurrection of Jesus.) Jude (Judas) is writing to we who are beloved by God.

2) In v.3 Jude urges his readers to "contend for the faith." He says we --- the saints ---have a common salvation. Who are we to "contend" with, and why (v.4)?

   We are to contend with "some men" who have crept into the churches unnoticed. They are ungodly people, denying Jesus as God, and perverting God's grace to justify immoral, sensual behaviors. God designated them for condemnation "long ago."

3) This is not the only mention of this specific "enemy." See v.4 and 1 Timothy 1:3-8, 2 Timothy 3:1-6, and 2 Peter 2:1-3. What characteristics stand out to you about how these church people behave within the congregation?

   NOTE: They have a form of godliness --- they look like Christians ---– but no power to live like it! Actually, they "deny" having God's power because they reject walking in obedience to and in harmony with the Holy Spirit. **They know the talk, but can't do the walk!**

   - **v.4 They pervert God's grace into sensuality expressions.**
   - **1 Tim. They devote themselves to, and confidently promote, speculations ('new ideas') through myths and genealogies, instead of teaching sound Christian doctrines.**
   - **2 Tim. They creep in and seduce our women. They are lovers of pleasures without any self-control.**
   - **2 Pet. Some are even our church pastors and teachers who introduce heretical teachings, who exploit the church out of their own greed, and who embarrass and bring shame to God and the church by their sensual misbehaviors.**

4) Did you ever think that by coming to church you might meet your faith's enemy? ___**No**_____

5) V.5 – Read Numbers 14:20-25. What is the key point about the Israelites whom God delivered and left Egypt with Moses? What is its application to us Christians today?
   The key insight here is that God saved them -> and then over the next 40 years killed them off for lack of faith and disobedience before reaching the Promised Land. The application is that we must live by FAITH and OBEDIENCE to the end of our lives lest we, too, get cut off.

6) V.6 – Read Genesis 6:1-8 and 2 Peter 2:4-5. This is a challenging story to fully grasp. The gist is that Satanic angels appear to have descended from heaven and began breeding with human women. The results were Nephilim – giants (remember Goliath?) --- who became regarded as heroes of old, men of renown. **This displeased God VERY much**, who had indicated His plan in Genesis 3:15 (a human heir to crush Satan). In 2 Peter we learn that God sent them to "hell." Really? Hell already exists? What is the description we have of where these angels are today?
   They have been chained up in gloomy darkness until the Day of Judgment. (Teacher FYI – Some commentators refer to Isaiah 14:12-15 as the description of Satan being cast out of heaven for his prideful attempt to usurp God's rule and dominion.)

7) Does the information from Q6 help you understand 1 Peter 3:18-20a? This is not recorded in any of the Gospels, but describes an action of Jesus at the time of His resurrection. The word translated "preach", *Knpussw* in Greek, first and foremost means to publish by a proclamation as a herald. Think of someone getting up on a table or stand among a large crowd and calling everyone to look at them so they can shout out a message to all. This is what Jesus did to the angels in prison. What do you think He was shouting about?
   Was Jesus proclaiming loudly that Satan's attempt to undermine God's plan was foiled?! God's plan of salvation, forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ, was accomplished. "You guys tried to ruin God's plan, but God has triumphed. Sin's power is broken once and for all, and the price has been paid to redeem the children of men!"

People and situations I want to pray for this week: