

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 14- A Further Description of the Heretics **Jude 16**

### 158 A Further Description of the Heretics Part 4

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WOSM Friday 06/12/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today I want to continue to look at what Jude taught about "A Final Description of the Heretics". So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 16** again together:

**These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their *own* lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of *gaining an advantage*.**

Now in this verse- Jude says that the false teachers who creep into the Church to deceive the simple are:

1. Grumblers
2. Those who find fault
3. Those who follow their own lusts
4. Those who speak arrogantly
5. Those who flatter people for the sake of gaining an advantage

And I want to continue today to explore the third description that Jude gives us here in verse 16- that the heretics- those who creep into the Church as spiritual "terrorists"- and who lay in wait in spiritual "sleeper cells" to blow up their "dirty bombs" of false teaching are

**"Those who follow their own lusts."**

Jude is showing us in this part of verse 16 a great contrast between those who are faithful to the Lord and those who want to destroy the Church.

Jude says that the deceivers follow their own lusts and do not

walk after the Lord; these people have their own agenda that is entirely separate from the true agenda of the Master of the Universe. And they preach and teach this “other” agenda in all that they do and say in direct rebellion and in direct contradiction to that which Jesus taught and said. They are, in fact, in competition with the Lord for the souls of men and I want to draw your attention to this great contrast between the heretics and those who follow the Lord today.

In **Matthew 8:3**, we see how that Jesus healed the leper and then told him one of the strangest things in all the Bible. After this man was miraculously healed, Jesus told him in verse **4**:

**See that you tell no one**

Now why in the world did Jesus tell this man not to speak about his healing to anyone? Again, in **Matthew 16:20** we read:

**Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.**

In **Mark 7:36a**, we read:

**And He gave them orders not to tell anyone...**

In **Mark 8:30-**

**And He warned them to tell no one about Him**

**Mark 9:9**

**As they were coming down from the mountain, He gave them orders not to relate to anyone what they had seen, until the Son of Man rose from the dead.**

**Luke 5:14**

**And He ordered them to tell no one**

**Luke 8:56**

**Her parents were amazed; but He instructed them to tell no one what had happened.**

**Luke 9:21**

**But He warned them and instructed *them* not to tell this to anyone,**

Now why did Jesus do this? Wasn't this counter-productive to evangelism? Didn't Jesus *want* people to know so that they would be saved and love and serve Him? Didn't Jesus Himself say that we should go and tell? Yet we find that over and over the Son of God commanded people not to tell anything about what He had done or even Who He was. Why was that?

The answer to this paradox lies in **John 6:15:**

**So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.**

The people so misunderstood Who Jesus was and why He had come that they were going to make Him their earthly king. But Jesus was not born to be a political or earthly king. Jesus was born to do His Father's Will and to be *rejected* by those who should have known Him the most and to be beaten and to be nailed to a Cross so that the sins of all his people could be placed upon Him; and He was born to be physically Resurrected on the third day and to ascend into Heaven and to sit down at the right hand of God- ever making intercession for us.

Jesus was born to suffer; it was God's Will that Jesus suffer- but these people didn't want God's Will- they wanted their *own* will and they wanted to pamper Jesus and make Him their King because they saw that as being what was best for them. Now in our own carnal minds- we would look at their desire and say, "*Well, after all- Brother Blair- they were only trying to be nice and that they were only trying to honor Jesus and that they were only trying to do good.*" But Jesus didn't look at this like that.

Jesus knew that anything that would divert Him from paying for the sins of His people was not a sincere but wayward gesture, but was, in fact, a direct attack of satan against God's holy Will. Jesus knew that any attempt to make Him an earthly king would have prevented Him from being an eternal king. Jesus knew that any attempt that these sincere but misguided souls made to give Jesus political or earthly power would be counter productive to what He was born to do- so Jesus would have nothing to do with it.

Now here is where the rubber really meets the road. If we are to

be God's people- then we must savor the things of God and not the things of Man. Men want power- Jesus wanted to be obedient to His Father's Will. Men want honor and praise- Jesus wanted to be obedient to His Father's Will. Men want to be first; to live in the best; to have the most; to own more and more stuff; to become powerful and great and honorable because we crave the worship and the authority that power brings. And this is because we are fallen creatures who are in competition with God to sit on the Throne.

So, these people naturally thought that by making Jesus a king- that, that would impress Jesus. But it didn't impress Him at all- and He completely ignored their desires and would have nothing to do with it or them.

You see, Jesus was born to be rejected; Jesus was born to be beaten; Jesus was born to die. He was born to be an eternal King and they wanted to make him a political and earthly king. We have got to understand that the Jews of that day didn't want God to save them from their sins- they wanted God to send Messiah to destroy the Roman army so that they could have their country back. They had no thought about an internal, invisible supernatural Kingdom where God would rule in their hearts. No, they wanted all glory to come to Jerusalem and that all the Gentiles would depart from their land.

Jesus told Pilate in **John 18:36**:

### **My kingdom is not of this world:**

And this is the great contrast. The heretics of that day wanted Jesus to do what they wanted Him to do- regardless of God's Will. They wanted an earthly, carnal king to vanquish the wicked Gentiles so that they could keep on trying to earn their own righteousness. And they saw Jesus as simply a way to achieve their own political and nationalistic agenda. But that is not worship or service- that is simply manipulation. These deceivers looked at things like Rejection and Poverty and Persecution and Beatings and Death as signs of God's Wrath and Displeasure and they saw all this talk about Forgiveness and Mercy and Grace and Love to be foolish and weak things that a mighty and powerful God would have no interest in- especially toward pagan Gentiles.

To the Jew of that day, the word, "Salvation" didn't mean being

rescued from a wicked black and evil heart of unbelief- the Jew had no concept of Jesus delivering them out of their own fallen sinfulness- no, to the lost Jew, being saved simply meant territorial gain and political power.

When Jesus spoke about turning the other cheek and of forgiving your enemies- the hard hearted false teachers despised Him all the more for trying to make God look weak.

So, when Jesus began to talk about going to Jerusalem and of being rejected and of being beaten and of being killed, Peter would have nothing to do with it. Let's read **Matthew 16:21&22:**

**21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.**

**22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You."**

Now this setting is almost beyond belief. Here is Peter rebuking the incarnate God and taking Him to task for saying that He was going to do what the Father's Will was. I mean some people just don't get it. Peter was polite about it, and he took Jesus aside- after all- he didn't want to embarrass Jesus publicly. But this phrase, "**began to rebuke him**" means that this was a long drawn out and detailed rebuke.

Peter was forcefully and vigorously rebuking the Creator and Owner of the Universe and I want you to see how that Jesus responded to this rebuke by Peter. Let's read **Matthew 16:23**

**But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."**

Now Jesus didn't gently remind Peter of His Father's Will- no, Jesus devastated Peter and called him, "Satan", which was about the worst thing that the Lord ever called anybody- even the Pharisees. Jesus was telling Peter in scathing language that he was so self-centered and so concerned about his *own* agenda that he really didn't care one whit about God's Will.

And this is the great contrast between the Church which is made

up of those who have been redeemed out of the world and the heretics who desire that Man be the center of the universe and who are driven to do and teach what is in their own lusts. The true Church desires to follow Christ and do God's Will- the heretics have their *own* agenda and will gladly use Jesus to accomplish their own ends.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is concerned about one thing: Obeying God's Will- regardless of how that affects us personally. The heretics are concerned about one thing: what is best for them- regardless of what the Will of God is. And the two kingdoms have nothing to do with each other and are diametrically opposite to each other and any attempt to blend or synchronize the two kingdoms is blasphemy.

The portrait that the heretics paint about a man who is in favor with God is the same false portrait that the false teachers painted in Jesus' day: An earthly, carnal, temporal man who desires the things of Man and does not in any way desire the things of God.

But the portrait that Jesus painted of the man who is in favor with God is a broken; devastated man who beats his chest in agony over his own sinfulness and unrighteousness and one who begs God for the Mercy and Grace that he knows that he doesn't deserve.

The modern heretics will talk all day long about what God owes you and of how much you deserve to get, and possess and they manipulate your fallen and corrupt tendencies toward covetousness and arrogance and power as they tell you that you should be discontented with only having a little when you can go out and get it all. And they teach what they teach because they are in league with Satan and do not savor the things of God, but they savor the things of Man.

But Jesus said that if we are to be His- we are to die to ourselves and we are to decrease and we are to deny ourselves and we are to cast off our dreams and our agendas and our plans and we are to follow Him.

I tell you that there is a great contrast between those who follow Jesus and those who want to use Jesus to accomplish their own agenda. Don't be fooled by the words of the deceivers and instead love and follow Jesus and fall down at His Feet and pray, "*Not my will, but Yours be done*"; and cling to the Old rugged Cross and strive to enter in at the straight gate and be thankful and grateful for what God has already done. Well, I've got to stop right here. But please join me on the next

broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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