

## JUDE: Lesson 9

### Verses 12-13: The Practices and Results of Those Who Would Destroy Your Church

11 August 2023

#### SPOTS

“These are spots...” within your fellowship (“in your feasts of charity...they feast WITH you...”).

#### **LEPROSY Leviticus 13:1-3**

- It is an uncleanness that is deeper than the skin, but works its way to the surface as a SPOT.
- It makes a person unclean in their flesh (vs. 8, vs 46).
- Those infected must dwell alone (vs 46) because leprosy will spread to others.
- Jude calls “certain men” in the church “spots” because they are unclean in their flesh. Soon that uncleanness will surface and spread and infect others if we don’t separate ourselves from them.

#### **SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS MUST BE “WITHOUT SPOT.” Numbers 28:1-3, 9, 11**

- God wants an unspotted offering.
- In the church, we offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.
- Jude warns the church not to offer sacrifices while there are men in the church who are “spots.”

#### **JESUS CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF “WITHOUT SPOT” TO GOD. Hebrews 9:14**

- There was no sin, defilement, or iniquity of any degree in Him.

#### **JESUS WANTS HIS CHURCH TO HAVE NO “SPOT OR WRINKLE.” Ephesians 5:25-27**

- We are to be holy and without blemish (vs 27).
  - Just like the Old Testament offerings, the cleansed leper, and our Savior.
- Jude warns us about men in the church who are spotted.
  - They are not holy, and they don’t want to be.
  - They will infect the whole congregation if allowed to remain in the church.
- The word of God can sanctify and cleanse a man (Eph 5:26).
  - Beware of any man who has a controversy with the word of God. Their spots have not been cleansed. They are unclean and contagious.
  - No man lives up to the word of God all the time. But do you have desire to do so?
    - David did (Acts 13:22)
    - Paul did (Philippians 3:12)

#### **SPOTTED CHURCH MEMBERS 2 Peter 2:13**

- They’ll spend time with you in fellowship trying to weaken your confidence in the scriptures until deceive you into thinking like they do.
- The preaching of the word is the remedy for unholiness in the church.
  - If your heart is right, the word of God will help you to grow and continue to get right.
  - The preaching of the word will help you to recognize those whose heart is not right.
  - The preaching of the word will drive away anyone who doesn’t want to get right.

## CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER, CARRIED ABOUT OF WINDS

- **Proverbs 25:14** “*like clouds and wind without rain.*” boasting of gifts that they don’t have.
- **John 3:8** The Holy Spirit is likened to wind. These men falsely boast of spiritual gifts.
- **1 Corinthians 14:32** The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. If men boast of gifts that they cannot produce, they don’t have the gift they claim to have.
- **Ephesians 4:11-14** God gave gifts unto men so they could help us to not be “**tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.**” God doesn’t want us to be deceived by anyone’s false gifts.
  - Now that the church is established, the sign gifts are no longer needed to confirm the word that was proclaimed first by the apostles. Preachers and teachers can encourage you to study the bible and stay away from the clouds without water (false gifts/false doctrines).

## FRUITLESS TREES

- Another characteristic of these men is that they don’t produce anything useful in the church.
  - They’re only in the church to mess it up and cause strife and divisions.
- **John 15:16** Those who belong to the Lord bear fruit that remains.
  - Observe a person for a time to see if their fruit remains under trial (1 Tim. 5:22, 3:6).
- **Matthew 21:17-19** Jesus Christ has no use for a fruitless tree.
- **Matthew 23:15** These men have no fruits of their own, so they’ll eat up all yours. What do you bring to the table?
- **Matthew 15:13** If you’re not part of the Lord’s work, you won’t last.

## RAGING WAVES OF THE SEA, FOAMING OUT THEIR OWN SHAME

- Always stirring up strife or contention or conflict in the church.
- **Isaiah 57:20** **But the wicked *are* like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.**
  - Always dragging up dirt and sins and troubles of the past that need to be forgotten.

## WANDERING STARS

- **Job 38:4-7** The sons of God are called morning stars. These are the angels.
  - Wandering stars are the angels that fell.
  - The spotted, raging, fruitless, boasters of gifts are in league with unclean spirits.
    - The devil is leading these people to destroy churches.

## FEEDING THEMSELVES WITHOUT FEAR

- Ephesians 4:11-13 God gave the church men who could feed the flock.
  - The men in the book of Jude don’t think they need a pastor or a teacher. They believe they can feed themselves without heeding the word of God delivered by God’s established leaders.