

“Servants Of Jesus Christ!”
The Book Of Jude

Introduction:

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Begin A New Series Of Messages:
 - Through The New Testament Letter Of:
 - Jude!
 - And Although This Book Is Only 25 Verses Long:
 - There Is Much For Us:
 - To Learn & To Apply To Our Lives Today!
 - Let’s Read This Letter Together:
 - Read Jude 1-25!
2. To Begin Our Series:
 - I Would First Like To Consider:
 - The Author Of This Letter!
 - Just Who Is Jude?
 - We Are Familiar With:
 - Peter & Paul & Even The Writers Of The Gospels:
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke & John!
 - But Who Is Jude?
 - He Gives A Very Brief Introduction Of Himself In The Very First Verse, Where He Writes:
 - “Jude, The Servant Of Jesus Christ, And Brother Of James!”
 - So, Who Is This Jude?
 - And What Makes This Letter So Important For Us Today?
3. There Are Only A Few People In The New Testament:
 - Who Are Named Jude – Or Judas:
 - Taking Their Name From The Old Testament Patriarch:
 - Judah – One Of The Twelve Tribes Of Israel!
 - The Most Notorious Person With This Name:
 - Is, Of Course:
 - Judas Iscariot!
 - The Disciple Who Betrayed Jesus With A Kiss!
 - This Is Not The Judas Who Wrote This Letter!
 - And It Is Likely:
 - That Our Jude Identifies Himself As:
 - The Brother Of James:
 - In Order To Distance Himself As Far As Possible From That Wicked Man!
 - Another Person With This Name:
 - Was Another One Of Jesus’ Disciples:
 - A Faithful Apostle - Who Was Also Known By Other Names:
 - Like Thaddaeus & Lebbaeus - Perhaps Also To Distance Himself From Being Identified As Judas Iscariot!
 - The Only Words We Read By The Apostle Jude:
 - Is A Question Found He Asked Jesus In John 14:22 - “Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?”
 - A Question That Shows The Tender-Heart That This Apostle Was Known For!
 - There Are Some Who Believe It Was The Apostle Judas:
 - Who Wrote The Letter Of Jude!
 - But I Believe That The Jude Or Judas Of This Letter:
 - Did Not Only Have A Special Relationship With:
 - James!
 - But A Special Relationship With:
 - Jesus Christ Himself!
 - Jude - The Brother Of James:
 - Would Also Have Been The Brother Of:
 - Jesus!
 - Because In Galatians 1:19:
 - Paul Calls James “The Lord’s Brother!”

- And We Meet These Two Brothers Of Jesus:
 - Both James & Jude - In Matthew 13:53-58 - “And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed thence. / And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? / Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? **and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?** / And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? / And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. / And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief!”
- There They Are – James & Jude, Along With Joses / Simon:
 - As The Half-Brothers Of Jesus!
 - Likely The Natural Children Of Mary & Joseph After Jesus Was Virgin Born!

4. Why Is This Significant?

- Because There Are Some Other Things We Learn About:
 - The Brothers Of Jesus:
 - Including Jude, In The Gospels!
 - In John 7, We Meet His Brothers Again:
 - 7:1-5 - “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. / Now the Jews’ feast of tabernacles was at hand. / **His brethren** therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. / For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. / **For neither did his brethren believe in him!**”
 - His Brothers - Including Jude:
 - Did Not Believe In Him!
 - And The Words Of “Advice” They Gave To Jesus:
 - Were, In Fact, Words Of Doubt & Derision!
 - “If Thou Do These Things!” (7:4)
 - Sounds A Lot Like The Words Of The Devil When He Was Tempting Jesus:
 - Matthew 4:3 - “If Thou Be The Son Of God!”
 - Jude - And The Other Brothers Of Jesus:
 - Were Skeptics & Unbelievers!
 - And They Were Far From Being Followers Of Jesus!
 - They Were Even Willing To Have Jesus:
 - Go To Where The People Were Wanting To Kill Him In Jerusalem! (7:1)

5. But - When We Go Back To The Letter Of Jude:

- What Do We Read In Verse 1?
 - The Very First Thing Jude Tells Us Is This:
 - “Jude, The Servant Of Jesus Christ!”
- What Happened?
 - Jude Began As A Skeptic Of Jesus!
 - And An Unbeliever!
 - But Here He Introduces Himself As:
 - A Servant Of Jesus Christ!
 - And To Him - This Was A Greater Honor & Privilege Than Having Jesus As His Own Brother In The Flesh!
- What Happened?
 - He Was Changed!
 - We Don’t Know Exactly When!
 - And We Don’t Know The Exact Circumstances That Led To His Conversion!
 - But We Do Know That He Was Changed!
 - We See This Change In The Book Of Acts:
 - Where We Again Meet With The Brothers Of Jesus!
 - In Acts 1:13-14 - After Jesus Had Died On The Cross / And After His Resurrection & Ascension Into Heaven:
 - “And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James. / These [The Apostles] all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the

women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and *with his brethren!*"

- And Jude, The Brother Of James & Jesus, Would Have Been There!
 - And Become Part Of The Earliest Church!
 - So - What Happened?
 - Jude - As Well As The Rest Of His Brothers:
 - Would Have Been Called:
 - By God To Become Followers Of Jesus!
 - God Would Have Opened Their Ears:
 - And They Would Have Been Convinced:
 - Of The Truth Of Jesus' Claims!
 - God Would Have Opened Their Eyes:
 - And They Would Have Been Convicted:
 - Of Their Unbelief & Ridicule!
 - God Would Have Opened Their Hearts:
 - And They Would Have Turned To Jesus In Faith:
 - As Their Own Savior From Sin!
 - And Not Just As A Brother!
 - And They Would Have Been Saved!
 - And Changed From The Inside Out!

6. And That Is Why Jude - At The Very Beginning Of His Letter:

- Identifies Himself As:
 - "The Servant Of Jesus Christ!"
- At One Point In His Life:
 - Jude Was Trying To Get Jesus:
 - To Do His Will!
- But Now:
 - Jude Was Willing To Follow:
 - The Will Of Jesus:
 - As His Servant!
- The Greatest Honor & Privilege Jude Had:
 - Was Not In Being The Brother Of Jesus Christ!
 - But In Being "The Servant Of Jesus Christ!"
- And This Is True:
 - For Everyone Who Has Been Called To Be A Child Of God:
 - Through Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - If You Are Saved Today:
 - Your Greatest Honor & Privilege:
 - Is Being A "Servant Of Jesus Christ!"
 - Just Like It Was For Jude!
- What Does It Mean For Us:
 - To Be "Servants Of Jesus Christ!"

* First - From The Life Of Jude: We Learn That A Servant Of Jesus Christ:

1. *Has A New Meaning In Life!*

- Jude Began His Relationship With Jesus:
 - As A Skeptic!
 - Even Though He Was Close To Him:
 - And Would Have Known Him Better Than Most!
 - But - A Mere Human Relationship:
 - Does Not / Cannot Save You From Your Sin!
 - It Doesn't Matter Who Your Family Is:
 - Or Your Brother Or Your Sister!
 - What Is *Your* Relationship To Jesus?
 - But Then Jude Believed In Jesus:
 - And Became His Servant!
 - And The Meaning Of His Life:
 - Completely Changed!
- If You Are Trusting In The Lord Jesus:

- Then You Too Are His Servant!
 - To Be A Servant Of Jesus - “Does Not Convey The Concept Of Involuntary Servitude, But Rather A Glad And Total Devotion To [The] Glorified Lord!” (Hiebert)
 - And This Will Give You New Meaning In Your Life!
- You Will Have A New Desire!
 - For The Lord & His Will!
 - John 12:26 - “If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour!”
 - Do You Have This Desire?
 - To Follow After The Lord, No Matter What His Will Is?
- You Will Have A New Delight!
 - In The Lord & His Will!
 - Matthew 10:25 - “It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord!”
 - Do You Have This Delight?
 - That “It Is Enough” To Simply Be The Servant Of Jesus?
- You Will Have A New Designation!
 - From The Lord!
 - John 15:15 - “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends!”
 - Do You Have Jesus As Your Savior & As Your Friend?
 - Because The Best Servants:
 - Are Family & Friends!
- A Servant Of Jesus Christ:
 - Will Find New Meaning In Life!
 - Just Like Jude!

* Also - A Servant Of Jesus Christ:

2. *Has A New Master In Life!*

- Jude Became: “The Servant Of Jesus Christ!”
 - And He Had A New Master!
 - A Good Master!
- If You Have Jesus As Your Savior:
 - Then You Have Jesus As Your Master Also!
 - And He Is A Good Master!
- The Lord Will Honor You And Your Service!
 - As Jesus Said In John 12:26 - “If any man serve me, him will my Father honour!”
 - How Often Are You “Honored” By Those You Work For Or Have Worked For?
 - Perhaps Every Once In A While!
 - But Most Of The Time:
 - Your Work, Though Valuable, Goes Unrecognized!
 - Not So When You Have Jesus As Your Master!
 - All Of Your Service Will Be Honored By The Lord!
- The Lord Will Strengthen You And Your Service!
 - As Paul Wrote In Philippians 4:13 - “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me!”
 - Often We Are Hired:
 - Because Of Our Own Skills & Abilities!
 - But When You Have Jesus As Your Master:
 - He Gives You His Help & His Strength:
 - To Do His Work & His Will!
- The Lord Will Provide For You And Your Service!
 - When You Are Hired To Do A Job:
 - You Receive Pay As Well As Benefits!
 - But After That, It Is Up To You To Make Sure You & Your Family Are Taken Care Of!
 - But When You Have Jesus As Your Master:
 - He Promises To Provide For All Your Needs!
 - Philippians 4:19 - “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”

- Do You Have Jesus As Your Master?
- If So, Now - Compare Your Old Master With Your New Master:
 - As Paul Did In Romans 6:20-23 - “For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. / What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. / But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. / For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!”
- What A Master We Have In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - A Good Master! A Gracious Master!
 - Won’t You Now Serve Your New Master:
 - With All Of Your Heart & Soul?

* Also - A Servant Of Jesus Christ Will Have:

3. *A New Mission In Life!*

- And Jude Describes Part Of Our Mission In This Letter:
 - Especially In Verse 3 - “That Ye Should Earnestly Contend For The Faith Which Was Once Delivered Unto The Saints!”
 - And This Is The Theme Of This Entire Letter!
 - Because There Are So Many Threats To Our Common Faith!
 - From The Outside!
 - And From The Inside!
 - So Our Mission As The Servants Of Christ:
 - Is To “Earnestly Contend For The Faith!”
 - Who? Who Is To Fulfill This Mission?
 - Those Who Are True Christians!
 - Verse 1b - “Them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called!”
 - This Is Your Mission As Well!
 - Why? Why Are We To Fulfill This Mission?
 - Because Of The Threats To Your Faith!
 - Verse 4 - “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ!”
 - There Are Great Threats To Your Faith & To Your Church!
 - Even From The Inside!
 - We See Some Of These Threats In Our Churches Even Today!
 - First Baptist Church Of Greenville, SC:
 - “In all facets of the life and ministry of our church, including but not limited to membership, baptism, ordination, marriage, teaching and committee/organizational leadership, First Baptist Greenville will not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.” (May 5, 2015)
 - And This Is Why We Have This New Mission!
 - When? When Are We To Fulfill This Mission?
 - Today!
 - Verses 17-18 - “But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; / How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts!”
 - This Is The “Last Time!”
 - And We Need To Be Prepared For Our Master’s Return!
 - This Is Part Of Our Mission!
 - How? How Are We To Fulfill This Mission?
 - How Can We Be Ready?
 - Verse 21 - “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life!”
 - We Will Be Looking At Our Mission From This Letter In More Detail:
 - But How Willing Are You To Serve The Lord:
 - In Your Life Today?

Conclusion:

1. There Is No Greater Honor:
 - Than To Be The Servant Of Jesus Christ!
 - As Matthew Henry Once Wrote - Jude "Might Have Claimed Kindred to Christ According To The Flesh, but He Waives This, And Rather Glories In Being His Servant!"
 - Is This Your Greatest Honor & Your Greatest Glory?
 - To Be The Servant Of Christ?
2. Then Serve Him!
 - Don't Hold Anything Back From Your Master!
 - Don't Have Anything Before Your Master!
 - Matthew 6:24 - "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other!"
 - Serve The Lord Jesus:
 - Exclusively, Obediently, Heartily, Cheerfully, And Diligently!
 - "We Can Never Begin Too Soon, Nor Continue Too Long, In The Service Of Christ!" (William Jenkyn)
3. And Like Jude:
 - Take It As Your Greatest Privilege And Honor:
 - To Simply Be Known As:
 - "The Servant Of Jesus Christ!"

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