

Part 1 Jude 8-11

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

Likewise-

In like manner- Jude just gave 3 examples of people who faced the judgment of God. They were 1-those that God delivered from Egypt, 2-angels that rebelled against God and the 3-citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah. Now Jude goes on to say that the false teachers he is talking about are doing similar things. The conclusion then is that they too, will face the same judgment.

No doubt they have a lot of spiritual talk. No doubt they impress some people with an apparent spirituality. But their position is "Lost" and their activities are damned.

These dreamers- English Standard Version says "relying on their dreams". King James says "these filthy dreamers". The Greek word means one of two things. 1) to dream (divinely suggested) dreams 2) or to be beguiled with sensual images and carried away to an impious course of conduct

With either application we can see that the Word of God is not their authority. They have sensed something or dreamed something or felt something. Maybe they have a vivid imagination or experience dramatic visions. But their source is not from reading or studying the Word of God. Most false teachers are good at using the Bible to help them say what they want to say. But they are bad at studying the Bible to know what it **really** says. Always beware of those **whose source of information or authority is from dreams or imaginations or experiential revelations or the latest book they've read or anything other than scripture.** The dreamers may be fun to listen to. They may have a great degree of style. But they have no substance. We are responsible to test everything that we listen to.

So we see a test of a false teacher. Where is their authority from?

Defile the Flesh- Defile- to dye with another color, to stain to defile, pollute, sully, contaminate, soil or to defile with sins These dreamers contaminate their bodies with sins. We have been learning in Romans that a believer can **put to death** the deeds of the body. These dreamers do just the opposite. They

contaminate their flesh. Their behavior betrays their source. So we see another test of a false teacher. How do they live in their bodies?

They **reject authority**. Those people who depend on dreams for authority and direction won't tolerate **true** authority. They can't. They don't really even think it is important. We learned in Romans that the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. The Carnal mind must reject authority. So we see another test that can be applied to those who want to lead. **Do they submit to the authority of God and His Word, or do they appeal to another authority?**

This isn't hard to find out about a person. It may take some time, but if their behavior is out of line scripturally, like the dreamers are, and you approach them with the Word of God, any reaction but submission to the Word of God is a rejection of authority.

If someone is teaching, preaching, or just speaking something that is contrary to God's word and you show the Word of God to them, if they reject the Word, they reject authority.

And if the leaders of the church are basing their oversight on the Word of God and a person will not submit to their presentation of the Word, that person rejects authority.

I think sometimes we find it hard to believe that authority is a blessing. When we place ourselves under true authority, we place ourselves in safety. But when we reject that authority we become an easy target for the enemy. What authority has God placed you under? How do you regard it? Whatever you do, don't reject it. Embrace it. It is a gift to you for your good. If it is based on God's word it will bring you order and peace and security.

They **speak evil of dignitaries**. Speak evil is to blaspheme. Dignitaries is doxa. The word rendered "dignities" here, (doxas,) means properly honor, glory, splendor; then that which is fitted to inspire respect; that which is dignified or exalted.

It is applied here to men of exalted rank; and the meaning is, that they did not regard rank, or station, or office - thus violating the plainest rules of propriety and of religion. This word often refers to angelic beings, but not always.

It is easy to understand what Jude is saying here because he immediately gives an example of someone who **would not** blaspheme dignitaries.

9Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

Michael means- who is like God. Archangel means chief angel. So we see that Michael has a position of upper management in the hierarchy of angels. In essence Michael is an executive angel, a big shot in its positive sense. Yet how does he regard authority? He respects it. In fact, he respects the authority even when he despises what it is now being used for. Satan was granted, and evidently still possesses some God given authority.

So Michael and the devil were disputing about the body of Moses. No one is certain what the dispute is about since we have no revealed scripture on the matter. Many believe the dispute is over whether the devil can have Moses's body. The idea is that if the devil could have Moses's body he could get people to worship **it** and he could distract them from **the God** that Moses served. Michael, according to this view, was not going to let this happen.

The point of this illustration **isn't** to fully reveal the nature of the dispute, but it **is** to show proper regard for authority. Evidently the dispute was a verbal one. The word for contend means to make a distinction. Michael and the devil were arguing.

And Michael would not bring a **reviling accusation**. The word for **reviling** uses the root of the word blasphemy. It is **impious and reproachful speech injurious to divine majesty**. The word for **accusation** means a **sentence of condemnation, damnatory judgment, condemnation and punishment**.

Basically we get the picture here that Michael did not get his ideas from dreams. They came from God. He did not reject authority but he fully submitted to it. And when he spoke to the devil, he would only say those things that he was authorized to say and that were appropriate for someone of his rank. Even if the debate was heated, even if the devil was using his deceptive reasoning and arguments, Michael would not cross the proper

boundaries that were set for him. What a contrast to the self-important dreamer. Jude goes on to explain what the false teacher will do.

He wasn't going to make some haughty spectacle of putting the devil in his place. He was not going to bring that kind of attention to himself or to apply to himself any kind of self importance. It was enough for him to pronounce the verdict "**The Lord Rebuke You.**" Michael was serving as a representative of the Lord and it is the Lord's interests that he represented. So, while Michael could have pronounced the devil's condemnation in **strongest of words**, he instead pronounces it by appealing to the **strongest authority**. The Lord is going to rebuke the devil and that is all that needs to be said. Where the devil stands **according to the Lord** is the most important thing. And the Lord's rebuke followed by His condemnation are the worst things that can be experienced. Michael is good with leaving it at that.

Here is another test of a leader. Do they humbly appeal to God's authority or make a great show of the authority they either have or pretend to have?

10But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

But these- I like how Jude says this. It's like these people are a dime a dozen. They will go to great lengths to display how special they are, but to Jude they are all just lumped in a group of evil dreamers.

And how do they handle spiritual situations dealing with spiritual authority? They speak evil. Again the word for speak evil uses the root of the word for blaspheme. It means to speak reproachfully, rail at, revile, calumniate, blaspheme. What Michael, who respects authority refused to do, these dreamers do all the time. They display their self importance when they rail against those they blaspheme, those who are of God, but the false teachers attribute their actions to an evil source.

There is an interesting contrast in the words translated **know** in this passage. The things they **do not know** refer to the word Eido. This means to perceive with the eyes to perceive by any of the senses to perceive, notice, discern, discover. Basically the word means to have a general

awareness of something. But that is not the same word that is used for that which they **DO** know. That word is epistamai and means to put one's attention on, fix one's thoughts on, to turn one's self or one's mind to, put one's thought upon a thing.

What we see is that the dreamers are **clueless**, don't know the first thing about true spiritual authority and those who are carrying out that authority. But they are **intimately** aware of the things that they corrupt themselves in. They are **novices** in the world of spiritual things and **experts** in the world of fleshly things. Now that isn't what they will put on their business cards. But if you hold **what they do** and **what they say** up to the word of God, you will find this evaluation to be true.

whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

This statement gives us insight as to where these people are coming from. Brute means destitute of reason, even absurdly so. Beast essentially means an animal. So what we have is a picture of a person who is not driven by reason but instinct. They are running on some kind of internal passion to meet their own needs and desires and caring about little else. That describes all their actions. Now, they are humans, so how they express this will be more sophisticated. They will relate with people, flatter people, manipulate people, show false concern for people's welfare. But if they get squeezed hard enough, their concern for themselves is what will gush out. This reminds me of the fact that it was said that those who persecuted Christ persecuted Him without reason.

So it is the things that these people know like animals that they will corrupt themselves with.

It sounds a lot like what we read in Romans 1.

28And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that

those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them

Corrupted- in an ethical sense, to corrupt, deprave

This is the same word for corruption used in II Cor 11 3But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be **corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

So the corruption is likely one of belief. They are believing lies. They believe what they know like animals, not any revealed truth. They believe according to their own selfish desires, not according to authority. They have moved from the true Word of God to a corrupted message. They have a brute beast theology. And it wasn't just done to them. They did it to themselves. They wanted it. They loved it. So they got it.

11Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.

Woe to them! Woe is a primary exclamation of grief due to the impending judgment that is going to be received. It is translated 40 times in the new testament as woe and it is usually in the face of judgment.

Now what does Jude compare their brute beast corruptions to?

Well first they have gone in the way of Cain. More literally they have travelled in Cain's road. They have gone down the Cain highway.

Now what do we know of Cain?

Genesis 5: Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

6So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7If you do well, will you not be

accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

8Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

9Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?”

He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

10And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

What did Cain do? He came up with his own way of serving God. It came from himself, from his own imagination rather than being received from what God said. He was corrupted with what he knew as a brute beast and would not listen to God. Then he bore the fruit of that rebellion and killed his brother. That is the same thing these false teachers are doing. They are religious, but they are not submissive or obedient. They will display religious works that might impress some, but they are not the works that God wants.

I want to point something out here. **Never, ever** trust how you feel as being an indicator of what is true. Just because something is personally offensive to you doesn’t mean it is wrong. We are fallen creatures. Basically we are all screwed up. But God’s Word is true. So we need to always, **and I mean always**, run to the Word to find out what is true. That is the **ONLY** source of truth that can be depended upon. We may have grown up with a list of rights and wrongs that are legalistic or twisted. Our sensing does not indicate truth. We **MUST** depend upon on God’s word for determining what is true and what is false. The false teachers trust their instincts. And they are dead wrong.