

Jude 21 - Rescue Entrapped Believers

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Jude 22-23

Prologue - Mercy or Mercilessness: We Received Mercy - Gospel

- ▶ Jude wants Christians to avoid the trap *False Jews* and all works-based religionists fall into: **Pride** (Ro 11:11-27)
 - ▶ Lost follow Satan *their father* to be as God {“*There can be only one!*”} or “*Survival of the Fittest-Evolution*”; all are slave to sin-death for Satan, “...*does not share power...*” (Ge 3:1-5; Is 14:13-14; Ez 28:15-16; Jn 8:44; Ro 6:16-23)
 - ▶ Whether masked as *karma* or *fate* it is without mercy; inherent in sin (Ro 1:29-32)
- ▶ What is mercy {ἔλεος, *eleos*}? Learned only by experience!
 - ▶ *Knowing* misfortune that occurs to others can also occur to you (Ph 2:5-8)
 - ▶ Christ exposed Himself, via Flesh, to same *peirasmoi*, testings, as *we* (He 2:14-18)
 - ▶ Thus, He experientially understands us and willing to give mercy (Ro 5:6-10; He 4:14-16)
- ▶ Mercy is taking *Good News*, Gospel to others; but only through people, not angels (Ro 10:8-17; He 2:16; 1Pe 1:10-12)

Prologue - Hypomene: We Share Mercy - Gospel

- ▶ Why are Saved left in Fleshly bodies, in Lost world, suffering for Christ?
 - ▶ Christ took on Flesh to die for us; we remain in Flesh to call Lost to His Truth (He 10:5)
 - ▶ We are Hypomene: Left Behind Ones, Standing Where Placed (He 10:35-39)
 - ▶ We who received Christ's mercy share His mercy; this is our mission: Light and Salt (Mt 5:13-16)
- ▶ False Teachers corrupt Gospel message to rob the Lost of Mercy (2Co 2:14-16)
 - ▶ They corrupt the Gospel and point to immature believers as hypocrites whom they influenced to be their partners in preventing salvation (2Co 2:17)
- ▶ Christians, by *lip and life*, are His Gospel messengers
 - ▶ Christ *shares* His glory with us as we live Him before the Lost though they hate us as they hate Him; do not pulled back to Flesh-World to your shame (Ep 5:3-14; 1Pe 4:12-19)

What is Jude's Focus?

Law of Identity - Hermeneutics

- ▶ These verses have been fraught with controversy
 - ▶ Is Jude discussing salvation of the Lost?
 - ▶ Is Jude addressing two or three examples of salvation by mercy?
 - ▶ Is Jude discussing salvation at all?
- ▶ Answering these questions requires us to look at Jude's mandate (Jude 3-4)
 - ▶ Fanny Crosby's hymn, *Rescue the Perishing*, reminds us to bring the salvation message in mercy to the Lost. But is this Jude's focus in these verses? (Ro 1:16)
 - ▶ Jude writing to local churches composed of *believers* in varying states of maturity: Elders {πρεσβύτερος, presbyteros} to immature believers {νήπιος, nepios} (He 5:)
 - ▶ Soteriology {σῶζω, sōzo} (Salvation) also means to rescue; floundering immature believers are saved but needing rescue from their entrapment of *changing winds of (Satanic) doctrine* and their doubts (Ep 4:11-16)

Rescue the perishing,
care for the dying,
Jesus is merciful,
Jesus will save.

Mercy Requires Action: To Whom?

- ▶ Believers face consequences for their choices even more than the Lost
 - ▶ Judgment of Christ **begins** with us (1Pe 4:12-19)
 - ▶ All will answer for **every** thought/word/deed; especially believers (Mt 12:36-37)
 - ▶ Paul goes into precise detail why and when believers suffer loss (1Co 3:10-15; 2Co 5:10)
 - ▶ Believers who judge themselves and repent **now** are forgiven; believers who do not judge themselves are disciplined by Christ; though remain saved (1Co 11:27-32)
- ▶ Church is the vehicle to grow, support and spiritually heal members who, in their daily walk, *minister* to the Lost
 - ▶ Elders: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists and Pastor-Teachers given this responsibility (Ep 4:11-14; Tit 1:7-9)
 - ▶ Church believers are to submit to Elders, who serve them, less they be consumed by Satan via False Teachers as Jude and Peter warn (Mt 20:25-28; 1Pe 5:1-8)

Science: Placing Facts
into Context
Question: Which Context?

All Knowing Begins
in the Mind;
Hence, Science also
Matter of Faith
(Co 1:18-19)

Sciensim: Placing Facts
into Ungodly Context



Spiritual Minefield: Many are Wounded

- ▶ World is a spiritual minefield with Satan (Demons) constantly *changing* philosophies to deceive the Lost and Immature believers {Critical Theory}
 - ▶ Many Immature believers entrapped trusting their own understanding (2Pe 1:19-21)
 - ▶ Siren call of *supposed* logic of False Teachers-World presenting *modern*, but ancient, excuses to return to one's sin though rescued through salvation {Pigs returned to fecal mire} (2Pe 2:20-22)
- ▶ Church Elders and informal more maturing believers ordered to rescue, serve, those casting themselves adrift on treacherous seas of doubts (Mt 8:23-34)
 - ▶ Elders called upon to warn the immature of their danger or account for their own unmerciful inaction {Like Ezekiel was charged by God to warn his people} (Ez 3:20-21)
 - ▶ Immature believers rebelling against those given responsibility over them are rebelling against Christ; not trusting Him to keep them safe even when Elders sin, as all do sin (1Jo 1:8-10)

Elders: Give Mercy

- ▶ Mercy {God's Love {Agape to Phileo} in Action} to Those who doubt {Conduit}
 - ▶ Everyone doubts, not proceeding from faith but self; we are to outgrow this (Ro 14:23)
 - ▶ Doubts impinge trustworthiness of God fostering rebellion exemplified by Man and Woman and each believer (Ge 3:1-5; 1Ti 2:12-14)
- ▶ Immature believer doubts the veracity of Father-Christ-Spirit-Bible leaving himself open to the *tender mercies* of Satan (Ja 1:5-8)
 - ▶ Though enjoined to *ask* Christ for help, this will not occur if one doubts Christ's love, mercy or willingness to help
 - ▶ Elders remember their early growth and commanded in mercy to help immature grow by biblical study and personal examples of elders (2Co 3:16-18)

Elders-*Living* examples of Christ as Husbands-Fathers to their families (Ga 2:20; Ep 5:22-6:4)

Elders: Show Mercy

- ▶ Immature believers, not rescued, move beyond doubting {Acting not from faith but flesh} and return to their besetting sins (Mt 14:22-33; 2Pe 2:19-22)
- ▶ Elders are commanded to: Rescue and Show {Give} mercy
 - ▶ Rescue Immature believers who have returned to their sins to save them from suffering *loss* when judged at Christ's Bema Seat (2Co 5:10)
- ▶ Elders show mercy as Christ showed them mercy remembering that godly wisdom, facts in biblical context, begins by understanding the *fear of Christ's Judgment: Suffering Loss* (Ps 111:10; Ro 5:6-11; 1Co 3:10-15; Ep 6:1-2)
 - ▶ Fire signifies judgment; Elders rescue Immature from Christ's impending judgment which could result in sickness, tribulation and physical death (Jn 10:27-30)
 - ▶ Spiritual poverty - Uncaringly stained by the offal of the flesh staining one's inner garment; they wear this openly to their shame {Poverty}: Elders are to detest the revealed sin, not the fallen Immature believer they are rescuing

Many Do Not Listen: Churches Overcome

- ▶ Sad truth is that many Immature believers will not listen and must bear their shame; exemplified by John in Revelation's Church Letters (Lk 8:16-18)
 - ▶ Pergamum - Follows False Teachers who follow Balaam's teachings; in mercy Christ calls them to repent (Re 2:14-16)
 - ▶ Thyatira - Immature believers have become the church leadership allowing spiritual-fleshly immorality to suffocate true doctrines and drive away believers; in mercy Christ gives them time to repent or suffer judgment (Re 2:20-23)
 - ▶ Sardis - Warned to Keep what they had learned or be rejected by Him {Church}: Spirit removed though *group* may remain as Christendom's trap (Re 3:1-3)
- ▶ Churches-Denominations fall away; begins with immature seduced by False Teachers and *changing philosophies* until church is infuse by sin {leaven}: Are you growing in Christ, are you returning to Sin or are you not even saved?
(Mt 7:21-23; 13:33; 24:10-12)