



Sermon Transcription • Abbotsford

May 5/6, 2018 - Andy Steiger  
**Beware of the Ungodly- (Jude 14-19)**

**[Please Note: This transcript has been lightly edited for ease of reading. Also, some headings have been added in square brackets to aid the reader in locating portions of the sermon.]**

My name is Andy Steiger, I'm one of the pastors here at Northview and I was thinking about it the other day and realized that I have now been working at Northview for five years, can you believe that? I know, it's unbelievable, and I hear some clapping, thank you. [Applause] Honestly though if you knew what it was like to work with Pastor Jeff you would have clapped a little bit harder, but that's alright, that's alright you didn't know. But I've really enjoyed being a part of this church, I love the leadership of Northview and as you heard from Pastor Jeff last week there are some exciting stuff happening isn't there in the life of our church, and it's exciting to see where God is leading us and looking forward to the future as Pastor Jeff and our leadership are guiding us as we seek to do church planting more church planting here in Abbotsford and Canada and around the world. And we're looking forward to that. It's fitting though, it's fitting that Pastor Jeff would talk about that vision, our desire to church plant and see the church grow around the world in the midst of us going through this series in the book of Jude. Jude is focused on false teaching, and in particular he talks about in verse three that he's writing to this church because his desire is to write to them to celebrate their salvation and to celebrate what's going on in the life of the church. But he finds himself seeing a church that is in the grips of false teaching and begins to realize that instead of celebrating with them, he needs to talk with them about the significance of false teaching and to contend for the faith.

I remember as a pastor early in ministry I once worked at a church, served in a church in Coquitlam, then I served at a church here in Abbotsford, called Immanuel just down the road. I was there youth and young adults pastor but I also saw their missions committee. And I had taken a number of teams down to Guatemala to do mission work and it was during that time that I began to realize the significance of false teaching and to appreciate how Jude begins his letter. As we began to go down to Guatemala we began to work with this pastor and this church plant in which he had started in his backyard. And over the years as we continued to partner with him it was amazing to see what God was doing and the light that that church was in their community and partnering with them in the gospel. We eventually began to work with them in getting a piece of property and a church and seeing as God continued just to bless that. And I remember it was a January that I flew down with one of our leaders at the church and we signed all the paperwork and everything was official and things were looking great. Church, it was only six months later that I went down with a team from our church, went down there again to celebrate what God's doing and to continue that ministry, six months later that church was completely destroyed. Completely broken, not just the church, but the families within that church. I remember going there thinking, "You know here we are, we're going to celebrate the salvation and



what God is doing in this church and the light that they are in the community.” But instead found myself sitting with this pastor and talking about the significance of false teaching, the dangers of false teaching. Seeking to encourage him to contend for the faith. That’s where Jude finds himself, that is the context in which he’s writing in. And it was a significant moment for me as a pastor, to begin to realize something that Jude wants to communicate here.

### **[The Dangers of False Teaching]**

We’re going to be looking at Jude 14-19 and I’m going to break it up into two parts. The first part that Jude wants to talk about is the dangers of false teaching. The second thing that we’re going to look at that Jude unpacks, is how do we avoid the dangers of false teaching. Now this is a topic that I find a lot of people in the church, quite frankly even me as a pastor, don’t think a lot about. You know often times when we think about false teaching we just, you know we think about it very nonchalantly, “Oh just you know, having some false ideas.” But we fail to see the *danger* in it, the significance of it. If you have your Bible turn with me, I want to look at Jude, we’re going to start in verse 14 as Jude begins to talk about the dangers of false teaching. He says, Jude 14,

“Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: ‘See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones [to do what?] to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.’”

Man when you read this in the Greek it’s almost, almost falling over your words as you’re trying to, you know it’s ungodly, ungodly, ungodly. And you get the sense of the juxtaposition that’s happening. Jude’s saying, listen, you’ve got God who’s godly and you’ve got false teaching that leads to ungodliness, and he’s saying, listen the dangers of false teaching is that it puts you under God’s judgement. It puts you into opposition with God Almighty who is returning with his thousands upon thousands, in other words, God is powerful and you don’t want to be in opposition to God. That’s what false teaching does, church, puts us into opposition with God and it’s dangerous.

Now I’ve got to just pause here for a moment, because there’s a bit of irony taking place here as I’m sure some of you’ve already noticed. Jude is talking about false teaching and the dangers of false teaching yet he’s quoting from 1 Enoch. Right he’s quoting from a book that’s not in the Bible, in fact the early church had a real problem with this and were wondering, “Jude what are you doing?” In fact the early church considered removing Jude from the Bible and saying maybe we should get rid of Jude. I want to just talk about that for a moment, because sometimes we’ll read something like that and it can really trip us up. You know is Jude quoting from 1 Enoch because he believes that Enoch is Scripture? Well I don’t know how to answer that question in some ways because I mean I can’t sit Jude down and talk to him about that. You know everything that he thought, but I do know this, I do know that Jude does not refer to Enoch as Scripture, he could have easily said, as it is written. He could have easily referred to it in the Greek, *graphi*, Scripture, he doesn’t do that. I know that the Jews did not incorporate it into their Scriptures, they didn’t see it as inspired and nor did the Christians, I know that. I also know that there’s precedent for doing this. We see the apostle Paul quoting outside of the Bible, such as Acts



17, Paul quotes from the Greek poet Aratus, now notice when Paul does this, he does it again in Titus 1 when he quotes from the Greek philosopher Epimenides. Again when he does that Paul is not going outside the Bible to find truth to include into the Bible, Paul is going outside of the Bible to quote from a source that is read, a source that is respected among his audience that he's speaking to, and he uses that as a bridge to bring them to the truth. He is quoting something that is in line with the Bible to bring them to the Scriptures because he wants to teach them something. You see the same thing happening with 1 Enoch as Jude quotes from Enoch, he's quoting from a source that's popular, most likely, amongst his audience that they're reading, that they find persuasive and he is quoting and reminding them, listen you don't realize the dangers of false teaching, that Enoch even tells you about that Christ is going to return, that God will return and ungodliness will be judged so you need to be careful. I began to realize that this is something that you and I need to be careful of, not just individually as it puts us under judgement with God, but you and I need to be careful of false teaching in the here and now as what it does to our families and what it does to our church.

Again as a young pastor, one of the most informative moments of my life was a course that I took in my Masters degree called, New Religious Movements, it was in the anthropology department of Biola University and New Religious Movements was just a PC way of saying cults. And we looked at cult, after cult, after cult and one of the things that I began to realize is the *dangers* of false teaching. You know there's a theologian by the name of Michael Green and he says this, church we need to understand this, he says,

"We have largely lost any sense of the diabolical nature of false teaching, and have become as dulled to the distinction between truth and falsehood in ideas as we have to the distinction between right and wrong in behavior."

And sadly it is so easy for you and I in a post truth culture to really get lost when it comes to spotting false teaching, to spotting ungodliness. I actually had a student ask me about this recently. She said, "Andy but there's often so much truth there." And she's right, if you've studied another religion or maybe a cult, you go, "Yeah I can see that there's truth in there." And often that's what sucks you in, I mean if it's all false, it would be easy just to spot, but often it's a mix of truths and falsehood. And that's the deception of it. But the other aspect of it is, often times these are nice people, good people doing good work and man in our culture today it's so easy for us to go, "Oh well they're a nice person and what they're saying must be true."

I'll never forget one of the cults that we studied was a methodist pastor that lived the 1950's, 60's, 70's doing some amazing work, particularly fighting against racism that was rampant at that time. Him and his wife even adopted a number of children interracially which was unheard of at that time. The guy was a *social justice warrior*, he started a soup kitchens, he started up clinics, he started up drug rehab centres, he was on housing commissions, he was even on a human rights commission, and at one point he was even named one of the 100 most influential pastors in the United States. The person I'm telling you about is Jim Jones. Jim Jones would go on to start up Jonestown a colony of people that followed him to the tip of, the northern tip of South America in Guyana, which would ultimately lead to the death of hundreds. I'll never forget as I was studying this, I came across this Newsweek article of a



family that got sucked into that cult and the husband and wife were able to get out but their five year old was stuck behind and they were desperately trying to get their five year old out. Read this out of Newsweek,

“When I tried to get him out [this is the father speaking, when I tried to get him out] Jones refused. Grace and I spent months filing lawsuits and travelling to Guyana to free our boy. In November 1978, we accompanied Rep. Leo Ryan on his mission to Guyana to investigate alleged human-rights abuses. When Jones heard we were with Ryan, he specifically forbade us to travel to the compound. That’s why I’m alive today. While waiting in our hotel we heard that Ryan and his four companions had been killed on the Jonestown airstrip. We realized immediately that there would be a collective suicide. We knew our son, along with the other 918 people in the compound would die. We couldn’t do anything. It was the most horrible night of my life.”

Man I read that, and I saw the pictures of the dead bodies of the men and women and the families that had drank that kool aid laced with poison. You know there was 305 of them were minors, kids, and I was thinking to myself, man, false teaching is *so dangerous* church. It’s dangerous to you, but it’s dangerous to your family. As a husband, as a father, listen, it’s fitting that we had child dedication this morning isn’t it? Listen parents, it is so important that you know what the truth is and that you lead your children into truth and that you are on guard against false teaching. It’s dangerous, and it can *destroy* your life, it can destroy your family, it can destroy your church.

### **[Ask Yourself Three Questions]**

And so in light of that Jude says listen, we’ve got to understand the dangers of this false teaching but then he wants to transition and give you some ways in which you can spot false teaching. So I want to talk about that in three ways. I’ve clumped it together in three questions that we should be asking about ungodliness. What is ungodliness look like? What does false teaching look like? There are three questions we should be asking ourselves constantly.

### **[1. Who is Their Master?]**

And the first one is this, Who is their master? If you have your Bible now turn with me again in Jude we are now in verse 16, and Jude says this about the ungodly, about false teachers, he says, Jude 16,

“These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their *own evil desires*;”

Now this is significant in that Jude is quoting, or using words that are reminiscent from the Exodus. And in the Exodus we see that the Jews are freed from Egypt and they’re lead into the desert and while they’re in the desert they begin to grumble and they begin to faultfind with who? Well Exodus 16:8 tells us that they are grumbling against the Lord. Look, Jude 16,

“...they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.”



And who are they grumbling against? It's not us but it is the Lord and this is significant point to understand in that when you are following somebody, maybe you got your favourite pastor, author, and you're learning from them. Jude's saying if they begin to grumble and they begin to faultfind you better be on guard because who they're focus is against is God. Ultimately God is the one that they are faultfinding against particularly if they're faultfinding and grumbling against God's word. Now this is something that see in Jim Jones. Jim Jones starts out as a Methodist pastor doing great work but then God doesn't move quite quick enough for Jim. See Jim's very focus on racism and he wants to stop that racism but God's not working quick enough and he begins to grumble and he begins to faultfind with God and what's his desire to do? His desire is to remove God from the throne so that he can put himself on the throne. So that he can follow his desires. This is vividly portrayed in a sermon that he gave in Philadelphia two years before the massacre. Notice what Jim Jones says, whose his master?

"I've told you as I did in the day of Jesus, go out without purse or Scripture. Don't go out with anything but the living Word. You say I don't have it well then get around me, you'll get it. You'll get it. I'll make you fishers of men I'll give you power. I'll cause you to go forth and lay hands on all these - oppressive devils all these oppressive spirits that have held us down in racism. You get around me and I will send you out in my name, and you will set people free. Think I can't do it? I've done it, as I've said, I've sent them all to all of our churches and I sit at home writing letters, and told them who to call out and who to take out of wheelchairs though I'd be 4,000 miles away I would tell them what to do, because I'm on the scene. I said, I am that I am has come. The very same Jesus and the very same God."

Man if that doesn't get the hair on the back of your neck stand up church I don't even have hair [laughter] and I still get the goosebumps right? Man if you hear something like that you should be getting out of your seat and you should be running! You should be fleeing right? You know who their master is. They have bent their knee to themselves and they're own evil desires Jude's saying. You shouldn't be surprised with what comes next. And I know I'm using an extreme example but I think the reality is true for anyone who begins to question God, and faultfind with God and his Word begins to slowly remove him from the throne and to place themselves there. You know the apostle Paul says this in 1 Corinthians 11:1, he says, "Follow after me as I follow after Christ." Listen you and I should follow and learn from another individual to the degree in which they are following after Jesus because it is Jesus Christ that we serve, Amen? [Amen] It is Jesus Christ who is our master and that's who we bow our knee to, I do not follow a human being. I only follow another person to the degree in which they are leading me to Jesus. Jesus is the standard and that's where I am heading. We need to be careful and not only those we follow, church, we need to be careful about ourselves. We need to be careful about the grumbling and the faultfinding that we find in ourselves and that we check our motives. And this leads us to the second question that Jude wants us to ask.

## **[2. What is Their Motive?]**



What is their motive? What is our motive in our grumbling and in our faultfinding. What is it that's going on in here and Jude continues here and he says with regards to these false teachers these ungodly people. He says Jude 16-18,

“...They boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage. But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, ‘In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.’”

In the Jonestown massacre we see this with Jim Jones as he took the throne and his evil desires came out. The abuse that came out in the community was his control over people through sex. You saw that that his desires were lustful desires and although they started off with good intentions - fighting racism, the true heart of him came out. We need to be careful about our motives not just the motives of the people that we follow but our own motives. Why is it that I'm following after Jesus Christ?

I got to tell you, I just got to pause here for a moment. When I read the book of Jude I am just amazed at the example that his life is. I mean you know who Jude is right? Jude is Jesus' *brother*. I mean if there's anybody who could *boast*, right, it would be Jude. And I can't help but wonder, man if I was writing that letter I wonder how it would open right? “Jude, the *brother of Jesus*.” Right? I could tell you how it would end too. “P.S. Jude the *brother of Jesus*.” Right? I mean if there's anybody who has an opportunity to boast it is Jude and how does he begin his letter? I find this so convicting. “Jude a *slave* to Jesus.” Takes a position of humility. More than that, here's the one that really gets me. Jude 4 you read that and Jude says that Jesus Christ is his Master and Lord. Now your Bible might translate that Sovereign but that's the Greek word, Master. Jesus Christ is my Master and Lord. And I got to tell you, I read that and I think, that is *unbelievable*! Any of you that got kids, you know what I'm talking about. That is unbelievable, I think to myself, listen I got two little boys okay, and we just got back from vacation and we had a couple tribunals on that vacation, you know what I mean parents? [Laughter] One of my favourites was when one of my boys ran over my other boys foot with a suitcase, right. And then we had to have a little court case. “Okay was that an accidental running over? Was that purposeful?” right. “Was it a heavy suitcase, was it not? Was it worthy of those tears or not?” Right. You know you sit in the midst of these tribunals that you got with your kids and you read something like Jude and you think to yourself, “What would it take for my son to see his brother as master and lord and to take a position of humility as he follows him.” So you know what I did? I asked my kids, I asked my son Tristan, I said, “Tristan what would it take to refer to your brother William as master and lord?” He goes, “Dad that's easy, if he could raise a dinosaur from the dead that should do it.” [Laughter] Little Jurassic Park action we got master and lord going on.

You know what the Bible says, the Bible tells us in Mark 6 that Jesus had brothers and sisters. John 7 tells us that they didn't believe or follow him they thought he was crazy. But Acts 1 tells us that they all bent their knee to their brother Jesus. Why, because they realized that they were stepbrothers, stepsisters, they realized that he was the Son of God. They saw their brother murdered on a Roman cross and they saw their brother defeat death in evil and return to life, they saw in Jesus walking, talking, eternal life and it changed their lives. And they bent their knee and they followed him so did his brother James who writes and starts his letter the same way, he's a servant of Jesus. And in fact



Josephus, a first century historian tells us that in the year AD 62 James would give his life for his brother. He would be stoned to death and I think, man when you read Jude you see, you see a man who understands who his Master is. He understands Jesus in his rightful place and he follows after him. He bends his knee to Jesus and his motivation is what? Is to humbly serve him and to see Jesus lifted up.

When I first got into ministry as a young pastor this is something that I began to get challenged with repeatedly and maybe some of you as you serve here this is something that you need to ask yourself. Right, we don't just ask of the leaders that we follow, you know what's their motive. But begin to ask of ourselves as I serve here at Northview maybe as an usher or as a greeter, as I serve on the worship team or as I serve as a Community Group leader. What is my motive, why am I serving? Making sure and checking myself that my motivation is correct and I think there's some of us that we need to ask that of ourselves. Why do I serve? If I could challenge you for a moment church, I think there's some of us that need to ask another question. Why am I not serving? What's going on in here? What's the motivation of my heart? As a young pastor I committed to memory some Scripture and I pray this over myself when I come and when I serve at Northview. I read in 1 Corinthians 12 how the apostle Paul says listen, God has gifted you in amazing ways, he's given you gifts and talents and abilities that you can use to serve the church. But then in 1 Corinthians 13 Paul says and this is how you should serve, this is the motivation by which you should use those gifts and talents that God has given you. And he says it this way, he says I'll show you the most excellent way, he says 1 Corinthians 13:1-3,

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [I'm just making noise with my life. He says,] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains [after mountains], but do not have love, I am nothing. [He says,] If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to the flames that I might glory as a martyr, but I have not love, I *gain nothing*."

Church, what should your motive be? Your motive should be a deep and profound love for Jesus Christ, that's why we serve. We are serving our master and we are seeking to lift Jesus high as we serve one another, as we serve him.

### **[3. What is Their Method?]**

We've got our Master straight, we got our motivation correct, and this leads into the final point that Jude wants to make. The final question we should be asking and that is, what is their method? What does their method look like of those people that we follow. Where are they leading us and in Jude 19 now he says, this is where the ungodly will lead this is where false teaching leads. Jude 19,

"These are the people who divide you, [That's what ungodly people do, they divide you, why? Because they] follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit."



What Jude is saying here is that there is a natural you and a supernatural you. The natural you is the you without the Spirit of God living in you. It's the you without Jesus, it's the you without God. That you, that natural you, the natural Andy will seek to divide. Seek to divide the church, will seek to divide or break relationship right? Break relationship with God, break relationship with one another. I think you get it. But the supernatural you, the you with God, the you that walks with Jesus, the you that has the Spirit of God living in you, that you will seek unity. That you will look like a person who lives in the Spirit. Now flip with me over to Galatians 5, cause Paul explains what this kind of a person looks like. Galatians 5:22, you want to know what a godly person looks like? Looks like this,

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

That's what a godly individual looks like. That's where somebody who's teaching the truth, that's what it's going to lead to. As we walk in the Spirit, it's going to look like now, and Paul says it again here in Ephesians 4:2-3, notice what he says,

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. [And then he says, verse 3] Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

That's what you and I should be seeking after. Is that we are seeking after unity as we live in the Spirit. Now I bring this up but I think it's an important point for us to close on. Because I think it's so easy for us to hear a sermon on ungodliness and to hear a sermon on false teaching and the dangers of false teaching and it can be so easy to go on a witch hunt right. Now I've got to go point my finger and go find out all those ungodly, you know false teaching people in my community and call them out. And Jude's not calling you to that. He's saying listen that's not the way actually a godly person lives. A godly person is on guard to contend for the faith, absolutely, but they do so in love. They do so in gentleness and kindness and when they see ungodliness, when they see false teaching, they come alongside that person in gentleness and self control and they seek to guide them back to unity. They seek to bring them back into community, the apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians that you and I, church, have been called to the ministry of reconciliation. That's what godliness looks like as we walk in love. We make sure we got our Master straight, we got our motives right, and that we are following his method, Amen? [Amen].

Let's close in prayer church. Lord God we are so thankful that you love us. We are so thankful that we have a godly Master that we follow in Jesus Christ. That you love us and that you have shown us what it looks like to live in the Spirit. That you are gentle and that you are loving and that you seek peace and that you've called us to the ministry of reconciliation. God I pray as we've read Jude that you would remind us of the significance and the danger of false teaching and that we would be on guard and that we would contend for the faith but we would do so in a way that honours you. That we don't fall into the same trap as the ungodly but that Lord we would continue to be alive and active in this church, that it would be a healthy light in this community as we seek to plant churches in Canada and around the world, help us to do that to your glory and fame, we ask, Amen.