

Epistle of Jude: *Contending for the Faith*

Study 6: The Disciple's Battle Plan (Part 2)

READ Jude 22-23 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Jude provides three things necessary to guard and grow our Christian faith in the face of error and opposition inside and outside the church: (1) Remember opposition in the church is predicted (vv. 17-19), (2) Remain spiritually healthy (vv. 20-21) and (3) Rescue the wandering (vv. 22-23). This study looks at point 3.

Big idea: Those that have received God's mercy and wait for God's mercy must contend for the faith by showing God's mercy.

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-7 and explain how God has been "rich in mercy" to those who are in Christ (v. 4).
2. The Puritan, Thomas Adams (1583–1652), said, "*He that demands mercy, and shows none, ruins the bridge over which he must pass.*" Explain what Adams means in light of Ephesians 2:1-7, Matthew 5:7 and 5:16.
3. Read Zechariah 3:1-4, 8-10. Notice Jude uses similar language to describe those wandering from the faith as that used by Zechariah to describe Joshua, the high priest (Zech 3:2-3). After Joshua is saved and cleansed, he is called to bring his "neighbour under his vine and fig tree," a picture of God's mercy and grace (Zech 3:10). How does Zechariah's vision fit into Jude's commands?

4. How can the church be a merciful place for those who struggle with doubts about their faith? What doubts have you had, and how has the Lord responded?
5. C H Spurgeon famously said, "*If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.*" Who should be "snatched from the fire" (v. 23)? Why does Jude use such urgent language (see James 5:19-20)?
6. Jude encourages the church to grow spiritually healthy (vv. 20-21) before commanding them to rescue the wanderer. Why is this order of priority helpful and important? (see Gal 6:1)
7. What does it look like to have mercy on someone, even while being careful not to be defiled by them?

Does this mean Christians should withdraw from the world? How should we strike the right balance?

STOP AND PRAY:

Confess: any impatience and critical attitudes toward the doubter and wanderer

Thank: God for His mercy, patience, and sacrificial love He showed toward you

Pray: for opportunities to show mercy to those who doubt or reject Christ