**Jude 11-16**

**Unmasking False Teachers**

People put on masks every day. Masks to conceal hurt, brokenness, and insecurity. Even masks to hide pain and sorrow. In this study on Jude we will see how the false teachers wear masks to hide their deceit.

One mask we might put on, is the mask that says, “all is well” when, in reality, it might not be. We are afraid to take off this mask for fear others will see that we are not as we appear.

**What are some masks that people put on in the church to appear that all is well but in reality, may not be?**

**Bible Study Methods:**

Read the letter of Jude on your own and then have someone in the group stand and read it out loud. It will take less than 5 minutes to read.

**Observation** – **Make a list**! What do you see that stands out to you in verses 11-16 of this letter? Look for key words, phrases, comparisons, or contrasts. You are asking the questions – Who? What? Where? When? How? Why? What is clear? What might be confusing?

**Jude gives three ways we can “unmask” the identity of these false teachers**

1. **Unmask the company they keep vs. 11**

They walk in the way of Cain (see Genesis 4)

***Helpful Notes:***

Cain, the first-born child of Adam and Eve, chose to reject God’s way of worship. Cain was religious, but he wanted to worship God his own way. Just as Cain eventually murdered his brother out of greed and jealousy, false teachers murder people’s souls with their deceit. False teachers put on a front. They do not really care about helping people pursue the love of God. They are in it for themselves and will worship to gain personal wealth and popularity. In 2 Timothy 4:3-4, Paul gives a stern warning that the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but having itching ears, they will seek for themselves teachers to suit their own passions. The word “woe” in verse 11 is an exclamation of impending doom.

They preach and teach for the sake of material gain like Balaam (see Numbers 22:21-31). Balaam is the only person in the Bible whom God rebukes through a donkey. Balaam was hired by a pagan king, Balak to curse the Israelites. Balaam did this for his own profit.

Like Korah they rebelled against the Lord and refuse to submit to Him. (See Numbers 16)

***Helpful Notes:***

Korah led a revolt against the authority of Moses and Aaron. Korah and his 250 followers were actually rebelling against God. Like Korah, false teachers set themselves up against spiritual leaders who faithfully preached the Bible and condemned false teachers. These three examples are very prevalent today. Like Cain, false teachers are without love, like Balaam they are greedy for money, and like Korah they belittle and attack those who truly preach the Gospel.

In your culture, where have you seen people of leadership abuse their power in these three areas?

1. **Unmask their charisma vs. 12-13**

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**Talking it over -Group Study:**

Jude gives some wonderful word pictures to label these teachers of error. In groups of 3-4, discuss what Jude means by these detailed descriptions of false teachers.

They are hidden reefs at their love feast. vs. 12

They are like waterless clouds, swept along by the winds. vs. 12

They are fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted vs. 12

They are wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame. vs. 13

They are wandering stars or falling stars. vs.13

**What is the end of these individuals in verse 13?**

1. **Unmask their coming judgment vs. 14-15**

Enoch who walked faithfully with God (see Genesis 5:21-24) spoke of coming judgment upon these false teachers. Notice the Lord comes with his angels to execute judgment on the ungodly for their actions and the way they have spoken wrongly about the Lord. (See also Matthew 13: 41-43)

1. **Unmask their character vs. 16**

How are the false teachers character described in verse 16?

How can we avoid falling into the same trap?

What steps would you begin to take to remove someone from church who has been teaching falsehood?

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**Interpretation – Ask a Question:** What’s the authors main intent or purpose of sharing these examples of false teachers who are subtly moving into the church?

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**Application – Put into practice**

• **Know where you stand as a Christian** – As the old hymn says, “How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!” We must study scripture to discern between what is true and what is false.

**• Know where the enemy stands** – Know his methods and tactics.

Jesus himself warns his disciples of false teachers in:

**Matthew 7:15-16a -** “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits.”

**Matthew 24:11** - And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

• **Be prepared to stand alone** – With so much deception in the world, the follower of Christ may feel as if they are alone but remember God has provided His Holy Spirit to give guidance and comfort, as well as His church to help us persevere to the end. More will be shared about this in our next study



**Praying it through –** Take time in your group to pray for your church. Pray that each person would guard their heart and mind from being influenced by teaching that is not in the Scriptures. Commit, as a group, to persevere and stand as one as you contend for the faith for the glory of God.



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