



Sunday, April 19, 2020

“Walking in Error”

Jude 1:11

Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.

Opening Prayer

Precious Father, your word says blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither-- whatever they do prospers. Help me oh Lord to be that person, in Jesus's Name we have prayed, Amen.

A. Observation

The book of Jude is a chapter that brings a warning to believers about the arrival of false teachers. Unless we abide in the love of God, we will be swept away from the gospel of righteousness into a doctrine of richness. Always learning from the experiences of other people is also a good character-building exercise.

Jude gives three examples of men who did whatever they wanted (1:10):

- **Genesis 4:1-16** explains how **Cain, murdered** his brother out of vengeful jealousy
- **Numbers 22 -21-34** relates the story of **Balaam**, who **prophesied** out of **greed**, not out of obedience to God's command.
- **Numbers 16:1-35** says about **Korah**, who **rebelled** against God's divinely appointed leaders, wanting the power for himself. These stories illustrate attitudes that are typical of false teachers - pride, selfishness, jealousy, greed, lust for power, and disregard of God's will in people's lives.

What is common between **Cain, Balaam and sons of Korah** is that they **were all characterized by dissatisfaction with the place they occupied**. So they engaged in rebellion against God, greedily seeking selfish gain at any cost.

B. Inspiration

Today the situation is not dramatic, but the choice remains. You can apostatize (or decide to renounce your religious beliefs, and you will flow with the majority, or you can stand for the faith and be part of God's plan to rescue humans from destruction.

2 Peter 3:17 says this "You, therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability."

C. Application

Now our days, people have taken the way of Cain. Be careful that you don't follow into the same trap of disobedience, envy and end up killing to have it all. This may mean either that they, like Cain, disobediently devised their own ways of worship, become envious of others, or hated others with a murderous spirit

1 John 3:12 - We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous."

Now our days, people have rushed for profit into Balaam's error. Balaam, under the guise of serving God, encouraged others to sin, while at the same time seeking to gain monetarily from their mistake.

2 Peter 2:15-16 - Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing, 16 but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

Warning: You will be judged by following the wrong teachings.

Now our days, people have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion. Korah led a revolt against Moses and Aaron, not acknowledging that God had delegated authority to them (Num. 16). So their rebellion was actually against God Himself.

The danger or the downfall of any society is when everyone want to become a leader - or not respecting the one God has appointed to lead.

- God is not a God of popularity
- God is not a God of majority
- *What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).*

D. Exploration

The 3 things that have destroyed humankind are the rejection of salvation through the blood of Jesus, the increase of greed in the believer's life, and the rebellion against God's will.

The way of Cain is basically the rejection of salvation through the blood of a sacrificial victim (Gen. 4). It is the attempt to appease God by human efforts. Abel and Cain both shaded the blood. For Abel, he killed a fat lamb but as for his big brother killed him.

1 John. 3:15 - Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

The error of Balaam is the desire to become personally wealthy by making a business out of the service of God. Balaam professed to be a prophet of God, but he was covetous, and willing to prostitute his prophetic gift for money (Num. 22-24).

Finally, the third reason for the woe pronounced by Jude is that these false teachers have perished in the rebellion of Korah. Along with Dathan and Abiram, Korah rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron and desired to intrude into the priestly office (Num. 16). In this they were actually spurning the Lord. For their insubordination, they were swallowed alive in a great earthquake. God thus showed His extreme displeasure at rebellion against those whom He has set up as His representatives.

Matthew 10:16 "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.