

But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. Isaiah 57:20 (ESV)



Jude 11-13 – How Apostates Work

September 26, 2021

F. They are like wandering stars. They shine for a brief moment but spend an eternity in utter darkness.

...wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. Jude 13 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

1. Review the message. What was most impactful?
2. Is God justified in condemning the ungodly, like Cain, Balaam, and Korah? In what ways are all of us like them? See Romans 3:10-12.
3. Have you seen jealousy, greed, and rebellion lead people into poor decisions? Share examples.
4. In what ways were these false teachers being deceptive? How have you seen similar deception by false teachers in our day?
5. Why can't false teachers deliver on their promises?
6. Jude uses the idea of fruitlessness to describe these apostate false teachers. Where else does the Bible connect the fruit of one's life to one's true character?
7. Read Genesis 4:1-16. Cain was not just the first person born on earth but he was the first apostate on earth. Since apostates of the past show us the way apostates will work in the future, what can we learn from Cain about the way apostates will think, live, and act after reading Cain's story?
8. Balaam's story is found in Numbers 22-24 and in Numbers 31:8-9, 15-16. Read 2 Peter 2:15, which tells us Balaam created this disaster, which ruined the lives of thousand, all for the sake of greed. How have you seen money lead people away from following Jesus and wise choices? What does this teach us about the danger of loving earthly riches? See Psalm 10:3, 1 Timothy 6:9.
9. Korah's story is found in Numbers 16:1-3, 31-35. What motivated Korah to incite this rebellion? What was Korah saying that sounded so good but was actually dead wrong? How do similar situations of rebellion play out in modern churches? What does this passage teach us about the way pastors and elders are to weather storms of rebellion?

1. How do apostates accomplish their work?

Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. Jude 11 (ESV)

A. Cain — They reject God's words for self-styled worship.

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Genesis 4:1-8 (ESV)

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. Hebrews 11:4 (ESV)

B. Balaam — They lead others to destruction for the sake of greed.

*But Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the command of the LORD my God to do less or more.
Numbers 22:18 (ESV)*

*While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.
Numbers 25:1–2 (ESV)*

*And Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor."
Numbers 25:5 (ESV)*

*Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.
Numbers 31:16 (ESV)*

But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. Revelation 2:14 (ESV)

C. Korah — They create rebellion to undermine legitimate leaders.

2. What are apostates like?

A. They are like hidden reefs. They are an unseen danger that is ready to destroy.

These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear,...Jude 12 (ESV)

B. They are like bad shepherds. They only care about themselves.

...shepherds feeding themselves... Jude 12 (ESV)

"Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? Ezekiel 34:2 (ESV)

C. They are like clouds without water. They claim to bring life but never deliver.

...waterless clouds, swept along by winds... Jude 12 (ESV)

Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give. Proverbs 25:14 (ESV)

D. They are like fruitless trees. They are nothing but death.

...fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted... Jude 12 (ESV)

E. They are like waves casting up foam. The result of their life is garbage.

*...wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame.
Jude 13 (ESV)*