

Memory Verse

Jude 16

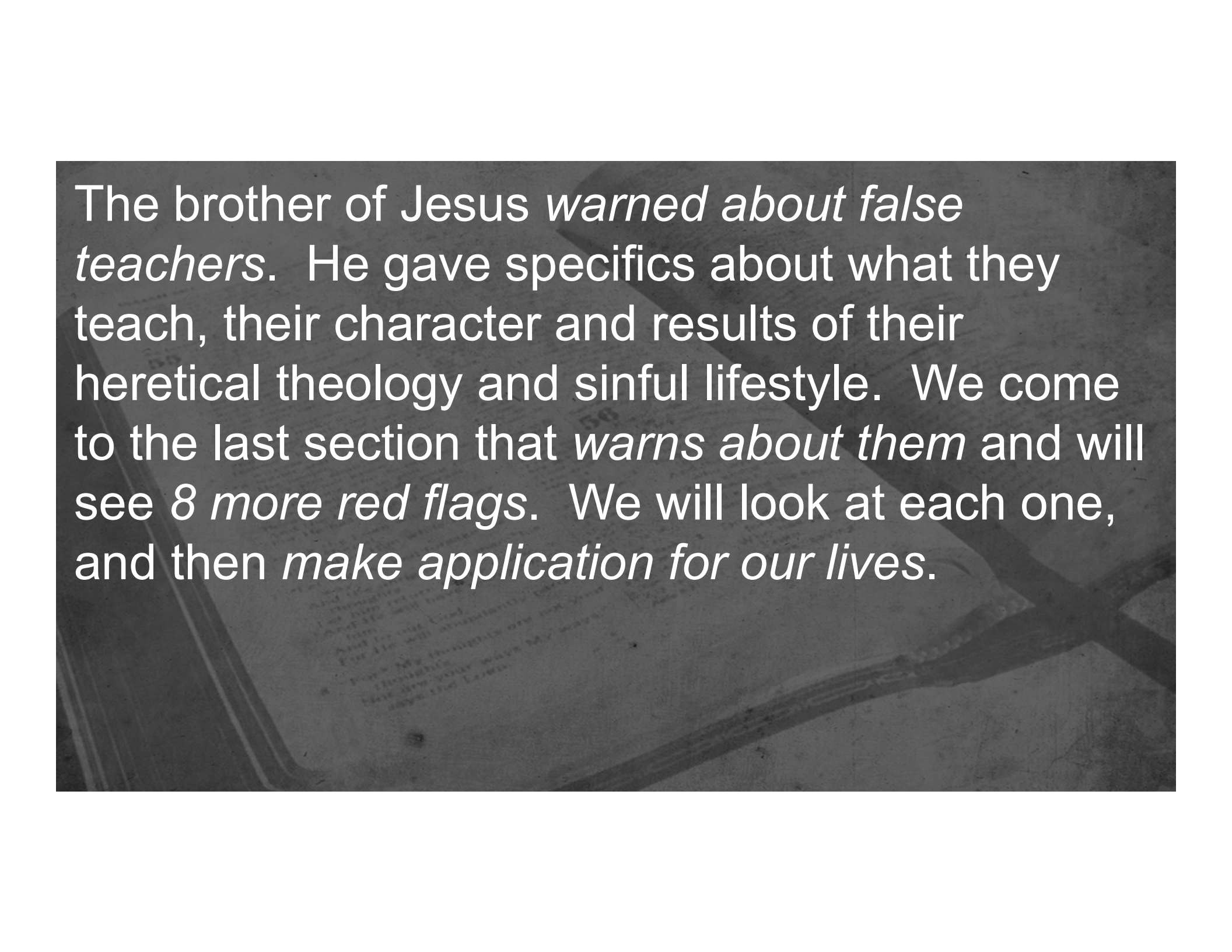
These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.



JUDE

Defend the Faith,
Grow in Grace

Pt. 9 – The Character of
False Teachers Pt. 3



The brother of Jesus *warned about false teachers*. He gave specifics about what they teach, their character and results of their heretical theology and sinful lifestyle. We come to the last section that *warns about them* and will see *8 more red flags*. We will look at each one, and then *make application for our lives*.

Jude 16-19

These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

17But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.” 19It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

A. 16a – Grumblers

The next **red flag** is these false teachers are *grumblers*. It means, "*murmurer, or grumbler.*" This is *different* than a complainer. A **complainer** voices his or her complaint loudly and often. A **grumbler** does this under his or her breath. They *complain to themselves*, or to a few people, or key people. For some, they do this to try to get them on their side.

B. 16b – Malcontents

Other translations use: *fault finders, complainers, or finding fault*. As before, this is the only place in the New Testament where this Greek word is used. It can refer to *blaming one's lot or destiny, discontented, or complaining*.

These false teachers move from *murmuring to complaining*.

B. 16b – Malcontents

In *Jude's day*, the *teachers travelled*, went from house to house and *stayed at people's homes*. Jude is *probably warning these readers*, and us, that false teachers will murmur and complain about what you have given to them. This **warning** showed the intent of their heart by the words they said. If they grumbled and complained, **reject them**.

C. 16c – Following Their Sinful Desires

Jude mentions this as he did in *verse 4*. God is again warning them, and us, about these *false teachers following their own lusts or sinful desires*. They have **no self-control**. *Their sinful desires lead them to the slaughter, like an electronic bug zapper entices bugs to die*. These individuals are travelling towards destruction, based on their *own immoral desires and choices*.

Jeremiah 23:11-22 - “Both prophet and priest are **ungodly**; even in My house I have found their **evil**, declares the LORD. 12Therefore their way shall be to them like slippery paths in the darkness, into which they shall be driven and fall, for I will bring disaster upon them in the year of their punishment, declares the LORD. 13In the prophets of Samaria I saw an unsavory thing: they prophesied by Baal and led My people

Israel astray. 14But in the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: they **commit adultery** and **walk in lies**; they **strengthen the hands of evildoers**, so that no one turns from his evil; all of them have become like Sodom to Me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah.” 15Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets: “Behold, I will feed them with bitter food and give them poisoned water to drink, for

from the prophets of Jerusalem **ungodliness** has gone out into all the land.”

16 Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They **speaking visions of their own minds**, not from the mouth of the LORD. 17 They say continually to those who **despise the word of the LORD**, ‘It shall be well with you’; and to everyone who **stubbornly**

follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’” 18For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear His word, or who has paid attention to His word and listened? 19Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked. 20The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and accomplished

the intents of His heart. In the **latter days** you will understand it clearly. 21“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. 22But if they had stood in My council, then they would have proclaimed My words to My people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

D. 16d – Loud-Mouthed Boasters

Another way to say this is *speaking great swelling words*. They *inflate* their own egos, character, qualities, accomplishments and more. They *may appear humble*, and throw the word "God" in there, "*grace*," or "*blessing*" or something, but if you **listen**, they are really talking about themselves. Just like they fed themselves rather than others, *they build themselves up, rather than building others up.*

E. 16e – Flatterers

While they boast about themselves, they *flatter others* or *show favoritism*. The literal Greek is "*flattering faces*." Though they murmur, complain, follow their sin, and boast in themselves, they also flatter others. **Flattery** is *insincere compliments for the purpose of personal gain*. Another way to say it, is they, *admire the external appearance and are influenced by it*.

E. 16e – Flatterers

This also indicates that people are enamored with what the false teachers say. They are in awe of what *comes out of their mouths*. They say the teaching of these individuals is powerful, when it is *seductive*, and *alluring* like a worm on a hook for a fish.



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F. 17-18 – Scoffers

Jude inserts the first of 2 "*But you...*" This is a contrast statement. Jude is saying, **you know this, you've heard this before!** Where?

The Apostles of the Lord *warned and prophesied* about false teachers coming.

F. 17-18 – Scoffers

Both texts remind their readers to go back to the authoritative teachings of the prophets and Apostles, written in the Old and New Testament. I exhort you to **go to God's book** and *base your doctrine, life, and what we do here on Scripture*. Peter and Jude warn of false teachers who *follow their sinful desires, and mock or scoff at the truth*.

F. 17-18 – Scoffers

This is done in 2 ways: **Blatantly** or **Subtly**.

Blatant scoffing is *all out making fun of what the Bible says.*

Subtle scoffing *calls into question what it says, and say it says something it doesn't say.*



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Today in chapel, we confessed to plants. Together, we held our grief, joy, regret, hope, guilt and sorrow in prayer; offering them to the beings who sustain us but whose gift we too often fail to honor.

What do you confess to the plants in your life?



“On Tuesday, Union Theological Seminary in New York City - a bastion of **progressive ideology** - encouraged its seminarians, who were gathered in the school’s chapel, to **“confess to the plants”** their sins against them.”

<https://www.faithwire.com/2019/09/18/seminary-encourages-students-to-confess-sins-to-plants-msm-outlet-asks-you-to-do-the-same/>

G. 19a – Divisive

The NASB states: *these are the ones who cause divisions*. It is **not** those who stand for the truth in love that *cause problems, or divisions* in the church. It is false teachers, with their ungodly lifestyle, ungodly doctrine, and ungodly worldview. **They cause division**; *not faithful preachers and teachers who uphold God's word.*

H. 19b – Devoid of the Spirit

Jude also uses: *worldly people*. *False teachers are focused on this world*. Paul uses this same Greek word in *1 Corinthians 2:14*, while describing unbelievers. This can be *another red flag*, but I've connected it to the last phrase, which is they are *devoid of the Spirit*. They **do not** have the Holy Spirit of God living in them. They are **lost!**