

Lessons from Jude 5- 7: Cost of Not Staying True to Faith

In Part 1, we discussed Jude's warning against straying away from true faith that leads to living a life that dishonors God as we engage in immoral living and denial of Jesus as Lord.

Jude reminds us in Jude 5 - 7 what happened to people of God in the past when they moved away from faith in God or lived in a manner that dishonored God. For example, some Israelites were destroyed after their rescue from Egypt, angels lost their proper place before God and ended up in chains and dark pits, and Sodom and Gomorrah got burnt. Each of the examples tells a story of the danger of not being in right standing with God continuously. The move away from a right standing in God does not happen suddenly overnight, it starts with "little allowances" from God's will or "little doubts" about Jesus' lordship over our lives.

Jude 1 & 2 clearly show that Jude sees himself as a servant of Jesus writing to people who have been sanctified, that is, called aside to do good by God and are preserved in Jesus. I presume he prayed for "more and more mercy, peace, and love" because he knows that we need those attributes to be successful as servants of Jesus.

Flipping Jude 1 to 7 into the workplace, the Community of Christians may represent a company/organization where we work. Jude can be type of a leader or worker calling us to contend for the mission, vision and values (as a type of 'faith') of the company/organization that we serve as employees and/or leaders. I presume employees have been called by our employers during the recruitment and selection process; cared for through compensation and benefits, challenging and meaningful work; and kept safe from injury and harassment at work. If you are an employer or leader and your employees are not being cared for or protected, then you may not be able to rely on them to continue to contend effectively for the company in the marketplace. Unwillingness of your employees to contend will lead to loss of not only revenue or market share but inability to withstand competition that may lead to going out of business. This kind of end result is what Jude 5 to 7 addressed as your company will end as a loser.

As an employee do you still feel called to and loved by your employer and safe at work? Do you still have mercy (grace, kindness, sympathy, tolerance or generosity), peace and love towards your employer and your work in the company? If your responses are 'no' to the two questions, may be it is time for you to look elsewhere as you would likely be struggling to contend for the company's mission, vision and values, and not be as effective as you should be in delivering service to its customers. If you are an employer, you need to start thinking of how you would contend for the loyalty of your employees so that they will contend effectively for you in the marketplace.

May you have more and more mercy, peace and love in your life. Amen.

Have a blessed day.