# Following Jesus, Not Your Idea of Jesus

A Study Outline on Jude 11-12

**Text:** Jude 11-12

**Central Truth:** Apathy toward God becomes desire-driven compromise and ends in rebellion. At the root is a failure to know the Lord as provider, and the only remedy is surrender.

**Key Question:** What would it take to shake your commitment?

For personal study and small group discussion. Companion to the article at go-me.org. All Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible (1995).

---

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of gathering around Your written word. We trust the Holy Spirit, who lives in us, to teach us and guide us into truth today. We purpose to be doers of the word and not hearers only. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Read the Passage Aloud

> *Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.* (Jude 3-4)

> *Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted.* (Jude 11-12)

## I. The Unholy Trinity (Jude 11)

> *Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah.* (Jude 11)

### A. The way of Cain: apathy

**1.** Cain murdered his brother over an offering. Hebrews 11:4 says Abel offered by faith and Cain did not.

**2.** "Whatever is not from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). Jude 3 says contend earnestly for that faith, because an adversary works to steal the word you received.

**3.** Cain offered "in the course of time" (Genesis 4:3). When he got around to it.

a. Apathy is serving God when it is convenient.

b. It looks like a schedule that always has room for something else.

### B. The error of Balaam: desire for pay

**1.** Balaam (Numbers 22-24) was a diviner whom kings hired. Jewish tradition holds he served in Pharaoh's court.

**2.** He could touch the spirit realm, but not by the Spirit of God, and he would do it for anyone who paid.

**3.** Jesus still warns a church about Balaam in Revelation 2:14.

**4.** Once convenience drives, appetite takes the wheel. That is greed.

### C. The rebellion of Korah: rejecting authority

**1.** Korah said to Moses, who decided you have all the answers?

**2.** The path runs from lazy, to desire ahead of God's priorities, to what does that preacher know anyway.

### D. Hidden reefs at the love feast (Jude 12)

**1.** The early church called communion the love feast.

**2.** A hidden reef tears open a boat far from shore. You saw nothing, and now water is coming in.

**3.** These people are not absent from communion. They are at the table.

#### Application Questions

Which of the three, apathy, appetite, or rebellion, is the most honest description of a drift you have seen in yourself or someone you love?

Where does "when I get around to it" show up in your walk with God?

*Transition: That is heavy. So let us go to a friendlier letter, which turns out to say the same thing.*

## II. Desire Is Idolatry (Colossians 3:1-5)

> *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.* (Colossians 3:1-2)

> *Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.* (Colossians 3:5)

### A. Raised with Christ means there is something for me to do

**1.** Keep seeking the things above.

**2.** Set your mind on things above.

### B. Put to death

1. "Immorality" is πορνεία / porneia, anything unclean and against the revealed will of God.
2. "Greed" is πλεονεξία / pleonexia, the desire for more.
3. The subject of the sentence is you. Paul does not ask God to do this for you.

### C. Where we practice the desire for more

1. At the table. I want the taste to continue, so I feed desire rather than my body.
2. The flesh does not discern between appetites. It only wants more.

### D. All of it amounts to idolatry

1. A golden image with a dead chicken in front of it looks strange to us.
2. Idolatry now looks different. The idol is made of ones and zeros.

#### Application Questions

Where do you practice the desire for more, and what does that practice train your flesh to expect elsewhere?

What is one appetite you have been asking God to remove that Paul says you must put to death yourself?

*Transition: Why does the bride drift into idolatry? Hosea answers in one sentence.*

## III. She Does Not Know (Hosea 1:2, 2:5-8)

> *For she said, "I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink."* (Hosea 2:5)

> *For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil, And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal.* (Hosea 2:8)

### A. A prophet's first assignment

1. "Go, take to yourself a wife of harlotry" (Hosea 1:2), because the land was doing exactly that to the Lord.
2. Hosea's marriage is the message to the nation.

### B. The motive behind the harlotry

1. "Who give me my bread and my water." The motive was provision.
2. I have to get what I need for me.

### C. The root: she does not know

1. She did not know the Lord had given her the grain, the wine, the oil, the silver, and the gold.
2. Jude says the same. His intruders revile what they do not understand.

### D. Spiritual adultery today

**1.** Sunday hands lifted, Monday focused on what I get for me.

**2.** At the center is a failure to know the Lord as provider.

**3.** That is why the enemy amplifies the teaching that God does not want to provide for His people. Those who ridicule that message so often do so for their own gain. Jude calls them clouds without water.

**4.** This does not only apply to others. Take a hard look at yourself.

#### Application Questions

Name three things you received this week that you have not yet acknowledged as given by the Lord.

Where has "I have to provide for me" quietly become the reason you chase something?

*Transition: Peter shows us how a real commitment can still be a commitment to the wrong thing.*

## IV. Peter's Idea of Jesus (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75)

> *But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."* *(Matthew 26:33-34)*

### A. Peter's record

**1.** "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Peter left everything.

**2.** "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16).

**3.** When the crowds left in John 6, Peter stayed. "You have words of eternal life" (John 6:68).

### B. Peter's answer to the word

**1.** Jesus said all would fall away. Peter said, not me.

**2.** In effect, You have the words of eternal life, but these words do not apply to me.

### C. What Peter was committed to

**1.** Peter was committed, and the commitment was real.

**2.** He was committed to Peter's idea. The Christ would put down the corruption, set up the kingdom, and Peter would hold a position.

### D. The servant girl

**1.** Not a soldier, not a man of rank. A servant girl at a campfire (Matthew 26:69).

**2.** What would it take to shake your commitment? For many of us it is a better offer with good reasons attached.

**3.** Many say yes to a gospel that costs nothing. Very few give everything to the One who gave His all.

**4.** Prayer meetings and leadership meetings are the least attended because they require the most and promise the least.

### Application Questions

What is your servant girl, the offer, comfort, or fear most likely to expose what you are actually committed to?

Where has your picture of what following Jesus should produce for you replaced Jesus Himself?

*Transition: There is one answer to all of this, and Jesus gave it before He went to the cross.*

## V. Surrender (Matthew 16:24-25, Luke 22:42)

> *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* *(Matthew 16:24-25)*

### A. The cross and your desires

**1.** The cross was a violent instrument of execution. It is the only fitting instrument for our desires.

**2.** God gives you the desires of your heart by planting His desire in you until yours and His are one (Psalm 37:4).

### B. The honest look

**1.** Many can name the day they said yes to Jesus.

**2.** Look at this week. Am I serving me? Am I carrying His cross, or looking for someone to build me my own?

### C. The simple ask

**1.** Give up. Surrender what you want, your desire, your plan.

**2.** Say with Jesus, "not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

### Application Questions

What specific plan or desire would you have to release to pray Gethsemane truthfully tonight?

What would surrender look like in your calendar and budget next week?

## Summary

Apathy becomes appetite, and appetite becomes rebellion. At the root is a bride who does not know that the Lord gave her the grain. Peter was committed, but to his idea of Jesus, and a servant girl proved it. The answer is not a stronger idea. The answer is surrender.

## Live From It This Week

**1.** Check the progression. Name one commitment to God's house you have kept only when convenient, and keep it this week.

**2.** Find the driver. Write down your last three decisions about time or money and name what steered each one.

**3.** Deal with it yourself. Put one self-feeding appetite to death this week before asking God to do it for you.

**4.** Answer Hosea 2:8. Each morning, name three things you received yesterday and say aloud that the Lord gave them.

**5.** Locate your servant girl. Identify what is most likely to expose your commitment, and decide now what you will say.

**6.** Pray Gethsemane. End each day with, "Father, not what I want. Your will be done," about one specific thing.

## Memory Verse

> *Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.* *(Colossians 3:2)*

## Closing Prayer

Father, not my will, not what I want, not what serves me, but Your will be done. Jesus, You are the head of the church, and we submit ourselves to You. Not that we would be seen or known, but that You would be lifted up in this place and in this nation. Make today an altar and a place of commitment. Pour in oil and wine, with no shame and no condemnation, but freedom to pursue You and be changed into Your likeness. Be magnified in our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## References

Holy Bible: New American Standard Bible. (1995). La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Adapted from a message preached at GoChurch Beirut. Watch the full teaching at youtu.be/tKo9Gro4jF0. Published by Go Middle East, go-me.org.