

Central Pentecostal Ministries

From the Pulpit...

They Are Among Us

Pastor Don Shoots

The book of Malachi is much more than the last book of the Old Testament. It is more than the announcing of what is called 400 silent years. The inspiration and prophetic overshadowing this book brings to the New Testament is needed to appreciate the message and the coming out of the wilderness by John the Baptist. To understand the words of Malachi describing its day is to understand why the New Testament begins as it does.

We must receive and appreciate the short book of Jude for the same reasons. It is given next to the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation. Jude is specifically addressed to those who are sanctified and called. Obviously, it was a message to the mature crowd which was the church of its day. The remnant needed to know in its day in regards to contrary personalities. Jude, with holy boldness, called the specific names of those who would be as contrary in the last days as they were at their original introduction.

Jude 1:11: "Woe unto them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." (Korah)

Understand, again, this is the book of Jude, the 65th book of the Bible. The identification from God is to the sanctified and the called; that's us. We cannot lay this message on the sidelines of the backslider or to the young convert. Jude brings back Cain, Balaam and Core. To hear and understand this portion of God's word is to have an explanation of much of the trouble in what we call the church.

Charles Spurgeon said, "I sometimes think there are more difficulties connected with the church than with the world."

CAIN

The Story told of Cain in Genesis is of a jealous and envious man. Jude brings attention to the spirit as well as the acts and mind that

will again be most prevalent in the last days. Most of us know the book of Jude as the book that talks about contending for the faith that was once delivered to the Saints. However you cannot contend for the faith that was once delivered if you are picking up the spirit of Cain. His way had become a relaxed common way to behave and yet at birth his Daddy announced him as, "a man from the Lord." When God spoke, however, Cain was irreverent. At divine reproof Cain hardened his heart. To kill a key member in the church was sneered at, saying, "am I my brother's keeper?" Indifferent to the murder of his brother, he held his position. Offer God what you want, it doesn't matter and it's no big deal. Churches are full of Cains. This is the last book before the book of Revelation. He said, "Before the end of it all, one of the things you will deal with is the spirit of Cain, the mindset of Cain and the personality of Cain." You won't serve God very long without finding those who couldn't care less about the altar. You will find those who have lost reverence when the gifts of the spirit are spoken. The spirit of Cain has invaded the full-gospel ranks. A man who was once identified as a man from the Lord is now so irreverent that at divine reproof of God he hardens

his heart. Often the preacher preaches his heart out and the Cains among us laugh on the way home at the fact the church service was too long. Jude went all the way back, some four thousand years to pull up this Cain and said, "Last day church, you are going to deal with Cain! Just as sure as Abel dealt with him, just as sure as Adam and Eve dealt with him, just as sure as the beginning of time dealt with the personality, the attitude and the person of Cain, so it will desire to infiltrate the very heart of the chosen, the sanctified and the called." In fact, we are not too interested in Sunday night service either. No, No, just offer God what you want to offer Him. Man says, "Come around the altar?" Why? "Put your hands together?" Why? "Worship God?" Why? "We need to pray?" Why? Just offer God what you want to. Jude is saying to you and me, if we contend for the faith we are going to see, deal and overcome the Cains among us. We will deal with the jealous and envious. The position he took was, offer God what you want to...no big deal...the scraps of the sacrifices are just fine. Hand God diseased lambs. The first fruits are not necessary for a Holy God. If we are not careful the Cains among us will get us to act in the same way.

Then over time the Cains that don't like the altar will get you to not like the altar. The Cains that criticize because the gifts of the Spirit are not right will have you criticizing the gifts of the spirit. And the one who says, "the anointing is not important anymore," will get you believing that the anointing is not important anymore. The book of Jude brought it up, "woe unto them for they have gone the way of Cain." Cain has come into the modern church! We would rather drink Starbucks coffee and eat a donut than reverence God in the sanctuary. Cain brought that in. They come to church now, ill-dressed with less on than they would wear to bed. Cains warp your perception of a lot of things that are holy. There was a time you had to be preached to because you knew it was bread to your life. However, now it doesn't much matter, our attention is elsewhere. That's Cain among us!

**Cain -
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BALAAM

"And [they] ran greedily after the error of Balaam." We have watched the liberal mindset run hard after the Balaam mentality. Balaam is pulled from the book of Numbers and too is clearly laid before us all, divinely so! Balaam? Who was he? He was a famous prophet! That's who Balaam was, a renowned prophet, one who knew God and the ways of God. It is amazing the audience he had with God Almighty from time to time. The knowing right from wrong was in his bosom. In Numbers 22:12 he is clearly told by God what NOT to do. And then it came to gifts and the rewards. Now he has to make a choice; do what God said do or accept a gift and sell myself to that which I know makes me a rebel against God. The Bible says that he was offered the Kingdom by Balak. He was offered gifts and rewards, then in verse 17, promotion and great honor. The Balaams cannot live when you wave a dollar bill at him or offer him a title in the church. Balaam is here folks, not because I say it, but because the book of Jude says it. We wonder what we are dealing with. We have a hard time discerning what certain things are. We can't put our finger on it, and we can't

identify it or name it. I can tell you the relatives of Balaam are alive and just as alive in the full-gospel church of our day among the sanctified and among the called. The Balaams know God and they know what God wants them to do, but they prefer to have the gifts and the rewards, the promotion and the honor. If you don't give it to them they get mad and leave the church and leave it in dilemma. Balaam really did have an audience with God from time to time. Yet in 2 Peter 2:15 God says "Balaam...loved the wages of unrighteousness." You would be surprised how many people are for sale. Give them an extra dollar and a title and they will sell the holy aspect of the Kingdom of God. They will throw everything away. It doesn't matter who it hurts, who it kills or what it divides. They must be given what they want or they will leave. When God talks to a man He means what He says. Here, Balaam is a man who loved the wages of unrighteousness. In verse 16 of Second Peter God called his conduct "madness." You can start out right, mister, and get into a world of mess. You can start at the altar and end up in the casino. You can start out with a sweet spirit and you can end up bitter. You can run into the Cains and the Balaams that are among us and come down

with their disease. I said THEY ARE AMONG US. After a while they have crossbred with you and you're thinking like they're thinking and you're acting like they're acting.

**The Balaams
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KORAH

He is embedded in the house of Israel with a divine association as the sons of Levi. Though there is great spiritual benefit and responsibility upon the tribe of Levi, Korah now considers it all a "small thing." Though he was not called to be a primary leader of the children of Israel he now feels comfortable in challenging the position of Moses. He is clever enough not to act alone so he begins to poison and stir the rebellious hearts and minds of others. Numbers 16:1 says he, "took men," in fact, 250 members of the church. Yes, key people "famous in the congregation," "princes in the assembly." With a warped religious rebellion he conveys to Moses, "we are as holy as you

are and as capable as you are in all matters.”

Understand that Jude is presenting Korah as the third stage of this deplorable contradiction to the purity of the church. In this third stage someone would die. Numbers 16:32 says, “the earth opened her mouth.” There have been thousands upon thousands who were once Levites unto the Lord, divinely separated unto God for wholesome ministry but they gave ear to the Korah in the religious arena. Jude says these Korah types are “spots in your feast.” These kinds are never too far from the pure in heart and the sincere associated with the Kingdom of God. Their contempt for authority was the final violation. For Korah to override the influence of Moses and his God-called position would be to silence the voice of God to the chosen people of Israel. God could not and would not allow this to happen; the earth had to swallow them up.

**Korah -
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This is a most serious observation that Jude has laid before the final days of this New Testament church and its existence. Did the influence of Cain, Balaam and Korah stop as Jude closed his inspired words? It is clear as we enter into the book of Revelation that someone did not get the message. They could not hear what Jude was screaming into the bosoms of those that must hear. For in the church of Pergamos we see those who have allowed the doctrine of Balaam to exist within the church, which has marred its ability to be what it was called to be.

We have no problem discerning those who are in blatant sin with vices and conduct as broad as the billboards on our highways. We do, however, have a major problem in discerning the Cains, Balaams and Korahs. We have a difficulty in bringing to order, rejecting and disciplining that which wants to stifle the influence on the church and silence the voice of God. Jude has brought to us a most sober message that there desires to live within our ranks in this final hour those of the likes of Cain, Balaam and Korah. Oh that we would hear what the spirit has said through the words of Jude!



The purpose of this publication is to benefit those truly seeking to follow Jesus Christ. If you or someone you know would be encouraged and strengthened by receiving these Full-Gospel messages, please contact us at:

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