

A WORD ON WORSHIP

REVIEW OF MESSAGE FROM MARCH 22, 2015

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Jude 16-18

“These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.”



If Jude were written in article format and submitted to the leading evangelical magazines of our day, there's not a chance that it would be accepted for publication. The rejection notices would say, “Too harsh and judgmental!” and “Too negative!” and “Too critical of others’ ministries!” “Where is the grace?” “Rewrite in a kinder, gentler tone!” Because tolerance has become the chief virtue of our culture and because the culture always creeps into the church, the church today is decidedly against anything that smacks of judgment or criticism of those who claim to be evangelicals. I often hear the mantra, “They will know that we are Christians by our love, not by our doctrinal correctness.” The implication is that love and correct doctrine are somehow opposed to one another.

Also, our evangelical culture has followed our morally lax worldly culture by mistaking God's grace to mean that we get a daily allotment of free passes for sin. We wrongly think that grace means that God is like an indulgent parent who isn't bothered by our sin. Just this week Presbyterian Church (USA) will now define marriage as a “unique commitment between two people,” rather than a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman. Where has the biblical teaching that salvation results in a life of obedience to God (Titus 2:11-14); or a lifestyle of sin is evidence that we are not truly saved (1 John 3:4-10) gone?

In contrast to our culture's emphasis on being nice to everyone who calls himself a Christian no matter what he teaches, the Holy Spirit saw fit to put Jude in Scripture. In case we missed it, He virtually repeats it in the letter of 2 Peter. Both passages give us this extended portrait of false teachers so that we will study it carefully, like a Most Wanted Poster, so that we will be able to spot these guys when they show up and avoid them and their teaching.

So, is Jude too harsh and judgmental of these false teachers? Should he join us more enlightened 21st century evangelicals in joining hands with them and singing, “We are One in the Spirit”? Or, did the Holy Spirit inspire Jude to give us this sad portrait to study so that we will be able to spot such false teachers and avoid following their sins? Why has Jude expended so much condemnation on the false teachers? Because he is primarily a pastor. He is concerned to feed his Master's sheep and he is furious to find them being poisoned by lust masquerading as religion.” Study this portrait carefully!

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

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The Hymns We Sing

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He Leadeth Me

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/h/l/e/hleademe.htm>

http://www.hymntime.com/tch/mid/h/e/l/he_leadeth_me_gilmore.mid

“He leadeth me beside still waters, He restoreth my soul.”

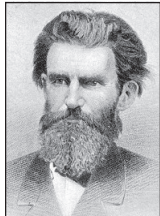
Psalm 23:1



Joseph H. Gilmore
(1834-1918)

Words: Joseph H.
Gilmore 1862

Music: William B.
Bradbury, Golden
Censer (New York:
1864)



William B. Bradbury
(1816-1868)

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, over troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.

Refrain

And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the vict'ry's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain



Join the Flock at Sunday School!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SUNRISE

March 2015

March 22	8:45 AM	Jude Verse 14 to 16
	10:30	Second Hour
March 24	7:00 PM	Bible Study in
		2nd Thessalonians
March 27	6:30 PM	Friday Night
		Fellowship
March 29	8:45 AM	Palm Sunday
	10:30	Second Hour
April 3		Good Friday
April 5		Easter Sunday

MARCH 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

4,000 Indian Christians rally to show 'solidarity' with raped elderly Catholic nun

UCANEWS.COM

Thousands of Christians rallied in Kolkata on Monday in a show of outrage over the recent gang-rape of an elderly nun. Some 4,000 Christians, including nuns and priests clutching lit candles, sang hymns and said prayers as they gathered in a public park.

Archbishop Thomas D'Souza of the Archdiocese of Calcutta, the main organizer of the rally, called it a "solidarity rally, not a protest rally". He said he wanted to show that Christians in Kolkata stood united at a moment of "pain and sorrow". "We definitely protest the crime, and demand the arrest of the culprits at the earliest," he told ucanews.com. "Such a crime should not take place at any place, at any time."

Florence Gonsalves, a woman who attended the rally, said they could only pray "for peace and that people grow to respect each other as human beings". The attack on the nun, 71, occurred last Friday after robbers broke into her convent in the town of Ranaghat, some 80 kilometers from Kolkata. Police said Monday that 10 men have been detained for questioning but no arrests have been made, even though the faces of four of the robbers were captured on CCTV footage.

Savarimuthu Sankar, spokesman of Delhi archdiocese, urged a swift response from authorities but bemoaned the lack of arrests.

"There cannot be any result unless the local police show sincerity," he said.

Fr Sankar said the nun's rape should not be dismissed as an isolated incident.

"We should know that there is already a vicious atmosphere against Christians in the country, which encourages criminals to attack Christians," he said.

The assault on the nun is the latest in a string of high-profile rapes in India and comes after a spate of attacks on churches that prompted Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promise a crackdown on religious violence.

Priests and other Christian leaders have blamed those attacks on religious hardliners, who are said to have become emboldened since Modi swept to power at general elections last May. Modi had been heavily criticized for not speaking out earlier against religious violence and has also faced flak for remaining silent about a spate of mass "re-conversions" of Christians and Muslims to Hinduism.

The Prime Minister's Office has asked for an "immediate report on facts and actions taken" regarding the rape and another attack on a church in Hisar in the northern state of Haryana, according to a spokesman for the prime minister.

The junior federal minister for home affairs, Kiren Rijju, also told ucanews.com on Tuesday that the government has asked for a detailed report from the West Bengal state government on the attack on the convent school.

"We have asked the West Bengal government to provide details of the existing security arrangements at convents and other Christian educational and social institutes in the state," he said.

