

Jude

“The Disciples”



Jude is symbolized by a sailing ship signifying his mission work to Syria, Arabia, and Mesopotamia.

Do you ever question things? Is it wrong to question? Sometimes I used to think that it was. I thought that I should just accept everything as I was told, and not question. Older people knew the right answers! I was taught to respect them and listen to them.

My grandmother always seemed to have an answer for my questions, even though she told me I asked too many questions! I wanted to learn, and she was very willing to teach! As I look back on my life, I am grateful for a grandmother that cared enough to educate the child in me and answer my questions no matter how trivial. She often quoted a Scripture verse to me

“Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, ‘Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?’ Jesus answered and said unto him, ‘If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

John 14: 22-24 King James Version

that has become a favorite of mine: *“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”*

Eugene Peterson puts it into the vernacular of today and the Scripture verse takes on a new meaning that I think speaks to us today also. *“When I was an infant at my mother’s breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good. We don’t yet see things clearly. We’re squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won’t be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We’ll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!”* 1 Corinthians 13:11-12

This is a wonderful promise that we will have someday when we leave this life on

this earth and dwell eternally with God. Jude wanted others to know about this then. Jude was concerned. He wanted people to know Jesus as he knew Him. He wanted to know how that was going to happen. What plans did Christ have for telling others who were not with him and who hadn’t yet heard this good news. Questioning is how we learn.

“We aren’t called to fill the pews with members; we are called to fill the world with Disciples.”
Sanchez

If we study the disciples, we find they questioned our Lord at different times. Why? They wanted to learn. They were in a situation that was unique to them, a situation that they could not conceive, just as we cannot say how we would have reacted in the same situation.

Even today, we cannot conceive in our finite minds what Heaven will be like. There are so many things we don’t understand with our finite minds. I think the disciples knew that Christ was different, but they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. They did not have the knowledge that we have available to us today. They were living in a situation with a man who was miraculous, but they didn’t know how miraculous. I think I would have had many questions then, just as I do today.

But, I don't think it was wrong of them or wrong for us. But it does strengthen our faith if we accept that we are not going to understand that we are not going to know all the answers while we are on this earth.

The quote given in this devotional is the only quote we have from Jude Thaddaeus or Judas as he is referred to in John. He knew that Jesus was special and he had a special message to the entire world. He had done miracles in front of these men and many others. He had appeared to them on many occasions. But how were other people going to know him if he did not "manifest" (show) himself to others as he had done to them?

How? Through Jude Thaddaeus, the other disciples, and us. We are the ones that must show or manifest our faith by our actions that we do believe in Christ and love Him. The Bible tells us that there is only one way to inherit eternal life. We must accept Christ as our personal Savior. No amount of good works can get us in. We can't buy it. If we could only work to earn it!!! We work when we accept Christ, not because good works is going to get us eternal life, but because we now have something that is so

"God give me the faith of a child who trusts without questioning, who simply and gladly believes your word without doubt."



wonderful that we want to share it with the world. The only way to do that is to live our lives as Christ has told us to live, and tell others the good news. We are the ones that need to manifest. How often do we say "Praise the Lord" and really mean it? So many times, my feet are made of clay and I mold into doing things the way I want to do them. Christ told Jude what he had to do. It is the same task for us today.

Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.

Abigail Adams

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

"We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light."

We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above has sent us His Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love.

We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow has trod, that all of the world's great peoples may come to the truth of God, may come to the truth of God."

Ernest Nichol

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the wonderful gift of eternal life, through Your only Son whom You sent so that we could some day share eternity with You. Help us to show this love to others by our words, actions, and deeds as we live each day on this earth. Help us to manifest Your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

1. Why is it so difficult to accept this free gift from a very loving Heavenly Father?
2. How can questioning strengthen our faith?
3. Can we be depended on to do the job?
4. Do you ever wonder how we can inherit eternal life by just believing and doing God's work?
5. How do we get answers to our questions?

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Info@rgscripts.com

"I don't spend that much time being introspective, believe it or not. All I know is that I grew up not questioning God because that's how you are. God was there like the birds and the wind."

Jane Goodall

