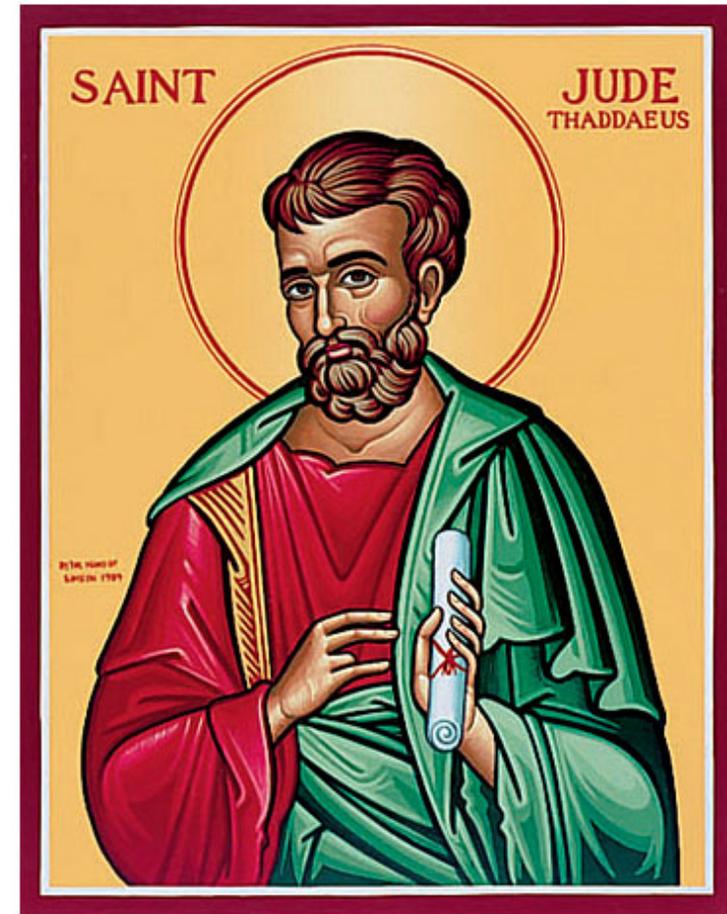


The Catholic Letters Session 5

Deacon Steve Swope
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Summer 2021

www.DeaconsView.com



So, What do you Think?

- Read Jude
 - Which of the images in verses 12 & 13 are the most powerful to you?
 - Jude uses the literature of his time to teach spiritual lessons; what literature of our time could be used that way?
 - Jude laments that words can be used to slander those in the community. How can we use words to build up our own community?

Jude

- Jude is a very short but powerful letter
- It is only 25 verses, but it pulls together a great deal from the Bible
- The overall tone is encouraging
- Jude is worried that people will be drawn away
- These people at one time had been present at the Eucharist

Overall Theme

The theme of Jude is an exhortation to fidelity to the unchangeable deposit of faith from the apostles, in spite of the enticements of false teachers.

Jude

- He warns them that although they “know all things” that the Lord who saved the people from Egypt destroyed unbelievers
- Jude is disgusted with them
- Jude’s attitude is that the faithful should leave such people’s fate up to God

Jude

- To keep his readers from joining them and to avoid sin, he quotes three biblical passages
 1. 1st generation of Israelites – wandered in the desert
 2. Fallen angels
 3. People of Sodom and Gomorrah

Jude

- He then gives three examples of how these non-believers try to use flattery and fancy words to get people to their side
 1. Cain – who lured his brother into a field to kill him (Gn 4:8-16)
 2. Balaam – who tried to use language to curse the Israelites (Nm 22:5 and 2 Pt 2:15)
 3. Korah who used language to incite rebellion against Moses (Nm 31:16)

Jude

- He also condemns other written works that are not in Sacred Scripture
 1. The assumption of Moses – the Archangel Michael argues with Satan but doesn't slander him. He leaves it all up to God
 2. The Archangel doesn't slander Satan, but the "intruders" will slander the believers they are happy to do it (v. 10)

Jude

- In his conclusion Jude provides an antidote to the bad influences
 1. Pray to the Holy Spirit (v. 20)
 2. Remain in the love of God (v. 21)
 3. Wait for the mercy of Jesus who will lead us to eternal life (v. 21)
- He ends with a prayer to God who alone can keep us from stumbling

Jude

- Jude has 25 verses
 - 1 – 16 Avoid falsehoods and those who are false leaders
 - 17 – 25 Focus on God alone

Jude

- Who wrote it and when
 - Jude was probably not written by the apostle St. Jude since he references the apostles without including himself as one
 - Many think this was written by a relative of Jesus mentioned in the Bible (like James, Joses, and Simon)
 - Jude says he is the brother of James perhaps because James was well known in Jerusalem

Jude

- When does it take place
 - Death of the Apostle John ~ 95AD to 100AD
 - Second letter of Peter ~ 100AD – 125AD
- The letter talks about apostles as if they are in the past
- 2 Peter is generally believed to be the last NT book written and 2 Peter borrows material from Jude
- Likely it was written in the last decade of the first century

Jude

- Interesting points
 - **Tradition** – Jude is wary of innovations on truth because truth was “entrusted to the saints (v.3). The word used is “handed down” in Greek which is the meaning of tradition.
 - **First Enoch** – Jude was familiar with a book called First Enoch. Enoch was popular among imaginative writers. He was taken to heaven (Gn 5:24) so writers said he had information about the future and end times. The book is filled with wonders and visions about the end times. Same with Jude (v. 14-15)

Jude

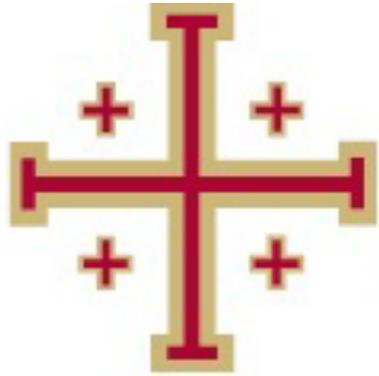
- Interesting points
 - **Testament of Moses** – The last words of famous figures were a theme in books contemporary with the Bible. Surviving literature includes testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs (Jacob's sons) Job, Solomon and even Adam. The source for this reference is debated because the source did not survive. It seems that Moses was taken up to heaven after an argument between the Archangel Michael and Satan about his worthiness. The issue is that Moses had killed (an Egyptian)

Lessons From Jude

- Be a positive influence on the faith of others
- Be nourished by the words in the Bible and not by the passing words of the day
- Allow the truth of the Gospel to be the primary guide in your life.

St. Jude

- The apostle was also known as Thaddeus
- Tradition is that he was martyred in about 65AD in Beirut in Syria with Simon the Zealot
- His bones were brought to Rome and now are in St. Peter's Basilica in the left transept under the altar of St. Joseph and are with Simon's too
- He is the patron saint of lost causes, desperate situations, hospitals, St. Petersburg, FL, other cities and the Chicago Police Department
- Feast day is October 28th



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