

MERCIFUL MINISTRY

Jude 22-23

Merciful ministry

I. TO THE DOUBTING (22)

A. THEIR SITUATION

1. These are probably believers being influenced by the apostates and now confused
2. To doubt is to have an uncertain belief - Exp: Peter walking on water
3. They begin to doubt what they have been taught - Heb. 3:12-13
4. They are willing to give some ground to the false teaching
- Example of Peter in Gal. 2:11-14

B. OUR MERCY

1. We are commanded to be merciful
2. Turning back the wandering soul - James 5:19-20
3. A merciful and tender approach is recommended for these - Exp: Rom. 14:1-6
4. Part of that compassion is to know and tell them the truth - I Peter 3:15

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II. TO THE DESPERATE (23a)

A. THOSE IN THE FIRE

1. The idea is probably that of unbelievers who do not recognize their danger
- Heb. 10:26-31
2. Saul/Paul is an example of one of these - I Tim. 1:12-14

B. US WHO SAVE BY SNATCHING

1. We are commanded to put forth a valiant effort toward rescuing them
- No one is hopeless until they are breathless!
2. A sense of urgency abounds
3. Examples:
 - a. Paul with the Philippian Jailor in Rom. 16:25-32
 - b. The angels with Lot in Gen. 19:15-16, 24
 - c. Amos 4:11 and Zech. 3:1-2 [a brand plucked from the fire]

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III. **TO THE DEFILED** (23b)

A. THE DESECRATED

1. Their clothing is contaminated by contact with their infected flesh
2. They are so seized with sin that it oozes out of them
3. They wear sin-stained clothes - See Rev. 3:2-4

B. OUR DUTY

1. We are to care about those caught up in sin
2. Jesus is the ultimate example - Matt. 9:9-13
 - a. The women at the well - John 4:1-26
 - b. The women taken in adultery - John 8:1-11

C. OUR DISCERNMENT

1. Be cautious about the danger of contamination - Note Gal. 6:1-2
2. Maintain a holy hatred for an environment where sin abounds
3. Remember the sin can be seductive
 - a. Note I Cor. 15:33-34
 - b. Don't join them to win them - Prov. 4:14-17
 - c. Be especially careful about the opposite sex
 - Consider Proverbs 6:23-30, 7:24-27 and 9:13-18

CONCLUSION:

“Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy” - Matt. 5:7

As we await God's ultimate and eternal mercy (21) might we act mercifully to assist others who are struggling with doubts, despair and defilement (22-23)