

# They Resort To Deliberate Hypocrisy

*Jude 12–13, 16*



**EVERY**

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NEW MERCIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH | JOHN 4: 28-30

Warren W. Wiersbe, [\*The Bible Exposition Commentary\*](#),  
vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 555–558.

## **Jude 12–13 (NKJV)**

**12** These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

**13** raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

**Jude 16 (NKJV)** These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage.

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Jude 12 and 13 present six vivid pictures of the false teachers and help to explain why they are dangerous to the church.

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# Filthy Spots (v. 12a)

Peter called them spots and blemishes *(2 Peter 2:13)*.

## **2 Peter 2:13 (NKJV)**

and will receive the wages of unrighteousness,  
as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the  
daytime. They are spots and blemishes,  
carousing in their own deceptions while they  
feast with you,

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- These men had invaded the “love feasts” in the local assemblies, but all they did was defile them. Instead of adding to the sanctity of the occasion, they detracted from it, like Judas at the last Passover that Jesus celebrated with His disciples.
- The tragedy is that the members of the assembly did not realize the true character of these men! They thought the men were spiritual!

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- The Greek word translated “spots” can also mean “hidden rocks.”
- The mariner who is unaware of the hidden rocks can quickly wreck his ship.
- The pilot must always be alert, for waters that look calm and safe can contain treacherous reefs. Spiritual leaders must constantly be on guard.

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# Selfish Shepherds (v. 12b)

- The word translated “feeding” means “shepherding.”
- Instead of shepherding the flock and caring for the needs of the people, these apostates only take care of themselves.
- Jude may have had in mind Isaiah 56:10–12 and Ezekiel 34, where the prophets condemned the political and spiritual leaders of the nation (“*shepherds*”) for exploiting the people and caring only for themselves.

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## **Isaiah 56:10–12 (NKJV)**

**10** His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.

**11** Yes, they are greedy dogs Which never have enough. And they are shepherds Who cannot understand; They all look to their own way, Every one for his own gain, From his own territory.

**12** “Come,” one says, “I will bring wine, And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink; Tomorrow will be as today, And much more abundant.”

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- It is a serious thing to be a shepherd over God's flock. Our example must be Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.
- False shepherds *use* and *abuse* people in order to get what they want, and yet all the while, *the people love it!*

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Paul marveled at this when he wrote:

## **2 Corinthians 11:20 (NKJV)**

For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.

- These selfish shepherds do all of this “without fear.”

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- They are an arrogant lot! This is the difference between a true shepherd and a hireling: the true shepherd cares for the sheep, while the hireling cares only for himself.

## Ezekiel 34:2 (NKJV)

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: **“Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?”**’

- But these apostates *ought* to be afraid, for their judgment is coming.

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# Empty Clouds (v. 12c)

- Clouds that promise rain, but fail to produce, are a disappointment to the farmer whose crops desperately need water.
- The apostates look like men who can give spiritual help, and they boast of their abilities, but they are unable to produce.

## **Proverbs 25:14 (NKJV)**

Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.

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- The Word of God is sometimes compared to the rain and the dew.
- “My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distill as the dew” (*Deut. 32:2*).
- Isaiah 55:10 compares God’s Word to the rain and snow from heaven that bring fruit on the earth.
- Like the clouds in the sky, the false teachers may be prominent and even attractive; but if they cannot bring rain, they are useless.

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# Dead Trees (v. 12d)

- The picture is that of an orchard in autumn, the time when the farmer expects fruit. But these trees are fruitless!

## **Matthew 7:16 (NKJV)**

You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?

- Those who teach and preach the Word have the responsibility of feeding others, but the false teachers have nothing to give.

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- Not only are they fruitless, but they are also rootless (“plucked up by the root”); this is why they are “twice dead.” What a contrast to the godly man in Psalm 1:3!

## **Psalm 1:3 (NKJV)**

He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

- One of the evidences of true salvation is producing spiritual fruit.

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# One Of The Evidences Of **TRUE** Salvation Is Producing Spiritual Fruit.

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- The seed that fell on the hard soil, the shallow soil, and the crowded soil did not produce fruit; but the seed that fell on the “good ground” did produce fruit (*Matt. 13:1–9, 18–23*).

## **Matthew 13:1–9 (NKJV)**

**1** On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.

**2** And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

**3** Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to SOW.

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**4** And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

**5** Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

**6** But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

**7** And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

**8** But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

**9** He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

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# Matthew 13:18–23 (NKJV)

**18** “Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

**19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

**20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

**21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

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**22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

**23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

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- No matter how much of the Bible the false teachers may quote, the seed is not producing fruit in their own lives or through their ministries.
- Why? Because they have no spiritual roots. They lack spiritual life.

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# Fruit Has In It The Seed For More Fruit

## **Genesis 1:11–12 (NKJV)**

**11** Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so.

**12** And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

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# Fruit Has In It The Seed For More Fruit

- One of the evidences that a ministry is truly of God is that the fruit multiplies.
- Manufactured “results” are sterile and dead, but true fruit continues to grow and reproduce itself in the lives of others.

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# Raging Waves (v. 13a)

- There is great power in those waves, as many a mariner has discovered. But Jude compared the apostates to “raging waves of the sea” not because of their power, but because of their pride and arrogant speech.
- “Their mouth speaketh great swelling words”  
(*Jude 16*).

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- Like the swelling of the sea, they make a lot of noise, *but what do they produce?*
- Jude may have had Isaiah 57:20 in mind: “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.” All that the “great swelling words” of the apostates can produce is foam and flotsam!
- The true teachers of the Word bring up the treasures of the deep, but the false teachers produce only refuse. And what they boast about, they really ought to be ashamed of!

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# Philippians 3:18–19 (NKJV)

**18** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

**19** whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

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# Wandering Stars (v. 13b)

- Jude was not referring to fixed stars, planets, or comets, because they have definite positions and orbits.
- He was referring to meteors, falling stars that suddenly appear and then vanish into the darkness, never to be seen again.
- Our Lord is compared to a star (*Rev. 2:28; 22:16*), and Christians are to shine as stars in this dark world (*Phil. 2:15*).

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- Fixed stars can be depended on to guide the traveler through the darkness, but wandering stars can only lead him astray.
- I have noticed that many a “pulpit beacon” has turned out to be a fallen star! It is disturbing to read histories and biographies and see how “the mighty have fallen.”

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- For the most part, those who have been true to the Word are ministering yet today as lights shining in the darkness, while the preachers of false doctrine have fallen into oblivion.
- God has reserved chains of darkness for the rebellious angels (Jude 6), and He has reserved “the blackness of darkness forever” for apostate teachers. Beware of following a falling star! It will lead you into eternal blackness!

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# Murmurers & Complainers (v. 16)

- Jude 16 completes the description and emphasizes even more why they are so dangerous: they are out to please themselves by taking advantage of others.
- This reminds us of Peter's statement (*2 Peter 2:14*), **"A heart they have exercised with covetous practices" or, as Phillips translates it, "Their technique of getting what they want is, through long practice, highly developed."**

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# Murmurers & Complainers (v. 16)

- They give the impression that they are out to help you, but they are interested only in gratifying their own lusts.

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- What is their approach?
- For one thing, they murmur and complain and cause people to become dissatisfied with life.
- While each of us should do all we can, as God enables us, to improve our lot in life, at the same time we must be careful not to criticize God's providences or hinder His plans.

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# The Nation Israel Was Judged Because Of Her Complaining

## **1 Corinthians 10:1–10 (NKJV)**

**1** Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

**2** all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

**3** all ate the same spiritual food,

**4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

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# The Nation Israel Was Judged Because Of Her Complaining

**5** But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

**6** Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

**7** And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”

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# The Nation Israel Was Judged Because Of Her Complaining

**8** Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell;

**9** nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents;

**10** nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

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# Christians Are Commanded Not To Complain

## **Philippians 2:14–16 (NKJV)**

**14** Do all things without complaining and disputing,

**15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

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- If a false teacher can make a person critical of his pastor or church, or dissatisfied with his situation, he then can lead him astray into false doctrine.
- The false teachers also use “great swelling words” to impress ignorant people.
- Peter called their speeches “great swelling words of vanity” (*2 Peter 2:18*).

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- They impress people with their vocabularies and oratory, but what they say is just so much “hot air.”
- They also use flattery to manipulate their listeners. They “bow and scrape” and pay compliments to others, *if* it is to their advantage.

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- Knowing these things, we are amazed that anybody would listen to these apostates and follow them; but many people are doing it today!
- There is something in fallen human nature that loves a lie and is willing to follow it, no matter where it may lead.
- But the success of the apostates is only temporary, for their judgment is coming.

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