

Snatching Men Out Of The Fire

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Jude 1:17-25

Jude 1:17-25, *“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”*

For a moment, I want to ask you to picture a possible situation. It could happen.

Suppose one day as you come home from work or some other trip, you notice as you pulled into the driveway that your house is on fire.

Suddenly! You hear the scream of a loved one coming from within the house. What would you do?

Chances are that you would dart into the house to rescue your loved one. Isn't this true? Think about it! Would you snatch a person out of a burning car, or a burning house, if you could?

Are you afraid of fire?

Under most circumstances, most people are.

In time of an emergency, however, people may forget their fear.

This small word (fire) circulated through a crowd, or building, etc., usually causes great panic and fear. People jump out of windows, trample others under foot, etc., in efforts to escape from fire.

Spiritually, it is possible for men to be in “fire.”

Jude 1:23, *“And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.”*

Jude is referring to those who are living under the influence of sin.

Millions are standing in the “fires” of Judgment.

As Christians, we have the responsibility of snatching men out of the fire before they are consumed.

Men must repent or perish. Luke 13:3, *“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”*

At this time we want to study some facts about snatching men out of the fire. We are “fire rescuers.”

Why we must snatch men out of the fire.

Because we are commanded to do so.

Mark 16:15-16, *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

Because it is cruel and criminal not to snatch men out of the fire.

This is true in a physical sense; how much more so in the spiritual sense.

The soul is of the greatest value in the world. Mark 8:36-38, *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

We would snatch a steak out of the fire. How about men?

Because of the deadliness of fire.

It is fast and must be dealt with rapidly. It knows no boundaries or limits.

We must try to prevent others from dying in their sin.

John 8:21-24, *“Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*

Because if we don't, who will?

God has not commissioned angels to do it.

The devil won't do it.

The atheist, agnostic, etc. Won't do it.

We must do it! We are saved to save others.

Because if we don't do it now, after we die, it will be too late.

Why men do not want to be snatched out of the fire.

This would be unthinkable in the physical sense. Any sane person would want to get out of the fire. Great lengths have been gone to by men to escape fire.

In the spiritual sense, some do not know that they are in the "fire."

The match is struck; the torch is lit!

They do not consider their deeds bad, because they are looking through their eyes, and not God's.

Even backsliding churchgoers are ignorant of this.

2 Pet. 2:20, "*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*"

Some have rejected the truth about the judgment.

They say "hell" is here in this life.

Many do not believe in any form of hell.

Some think they can get out of the fire by themselves.

They fail to realize the power is in the gospel, and not in man.

Rom. 1:16, "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*"

Man cannot save himself. Rom. 10:13-17, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*"

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Some think that they have plenty of time.

They will get out when they get ready.

Procrastination is deadly. Tomorrow may be too late.

Hindrances.

Satan. John 8:44, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*

Human.

When I was in my early 20's, a neighbor's barn caught fire. There were several of us who were trying to rescue his equipment from the barn. The fire attracted many who just showed up to watch, but were getting in the way. They parked their cars on the side of a very narrow road so that the fire trucks were unable to get to the fire. One of the men who helped us was a newspaper reporter. He wrote a column about the fire in the paper the next day. He scolded those who hindered the effort to rescue and put the fire out.

There are those who hinder the progress of those who are working for Christ in trying to save others from the eternal fire.

Matt. 24:24, *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

How to snatch men out of the fire.

With love and compassion in one's heart and with great urgency.

Today is the day.

Souls are being consumed every second.

With carefulness.

Consider yourself. Gal. 6:1-2, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.”*

This is the greatest “rescue mission” in the world.

By using the proper “tools” and “equipment.”

The word of God.

- John 8:32, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*
- Eph. 6:11, *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

By not getting “into” the “fire” yourself.

You must be cautious in rescuing men from the fire. Don’t get burned!

Do not be overcome by the world.

We must train ourselves to properly snatch men out of the fire. Recognize Satan’s traps and fire devices.

With great courage and strength.

Remember, God is working with you. You can be a conqueror in Christ.

Cowards will be in eternal hell.

Rev. 21:8, *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

Conclusion.

Are you in the “fire”?

Do you want to be snatched out? You cannot get out by your own strength.

Jesus came to snatch you out of the fire, and help you avoid it eternally. Will you, by faith, take hold of His will, the gospel, and obey it?

As a backslidden church member, you need to repent and be snatched out of the fire, too.

Do not pull others into the fire with you.

Are you busy snatching men out of the “fire”?

You will be lost if you don’t make the attempt.

May God help us to move rapidly into the “world aflame,” and rescue perishing men.

