



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Unheard Corruption

SPEAKER Ps Darren Kuek

THEME Contending for Your Faith

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

TOXIC CHURCH

In this sermon, Ps Darren focused on Jude 1:8-16. The verses speak of people, including leaders, in the Church who were men without substance. These ungodly people were described as walking in the way of Cain, abandoning themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perishing in Korah's rebellion (v 11). Through this ungodliness, they wrecked the faith, unity and peace of the Church.

To discern the voice of corruption and prevent ourselves from becoming like such people, we need to understand the implications behind the way of Cain, Balaam's error and Korah's rebellion.

THE UNHEARD CORRUPTION

1) THE WAY OF CAIN – I can't be wrong!

In the story of Cain and Abel, both brothers sacrificed unto the Lord (Gen 4:3-8). However, the Lord disregarded Cain's sacrifice which angered Cain. God, in His mercy, pointed out the reason for this which was Cain's flippant attitude in sacrificing to Him. He warned Cain that sin was crouching at the door and he had to master it (v 7). Despite God's rebuke, Cain chose to sin further by killing Abel. The way of Cain therefore refers to the refusal to admit one's sin after correction and instead choosing to sin further. Sin's way is defensiveness after correction. We need to be wary of becoming defensive when we are chastised as choosing to sin more will lead to hurting someone. In humbling ourselves and repenting after correction, we can master sin. We need to prevent committing the consecutive sin.

2) BALAAM'S ERROR – It can't be wrong!

Numbers 22:17-22 tells of Balaam's error. Balaam was promised gold and silver by Balak if he cursed Israel. In verse 20, God gave Balaam a condition in which he could follow the princes of Moab if they called for him but he could do only what God told him to do. God's anger kindled against Balaam when he followed the princes of Moab because Balaam's motivation was wrong. He looked at money and said, "it can't be wrong!" Similarly, money can have a hold on our lives. We need to reflect on how much it influences the way we live. This includes our motivation in having a

relationship with God and our attitude towards others of a different financial status. An excellent way to dethrone money's hold on us is to bless others with it as instructed in Deuteronomy 15:7-9.

3) KORAH'S REBELLION – You must be wrong!

Korah's rebellion is written about in Numbers 16:1-3. Korah led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, saying to them that they exalted themselves over the assembly of the Lord. He thought that he was in sync with God while Moses and Aaron were not. In line with this story, we need to reflect on ourselves. Do we think that we are superior to the authority placed over us? There are two handles we can use if we face such an issue. Firstly, if we feel that we are superior compared to our leaders in terms of doctrine or cannot agree with certain teachings, we need to search our own hearts. Are the teachings fundamental and do they "change" who God is? Secondly, we should use Matthew 18:15-16 and 1 Timothy 5:19-20 as guidelines. We should meet with our leaders in private to discuss our disagreements. Also, if there is a real need to bring a charge against any leader, it must be brought before only the leadership and a witness of the complaint must be present. Beware of going against authority for a false charge means going against God.

CONCLUSION

It is vital that we learn how to discern the voice of corruption so that we do not fall for it and thereby shipwreck others in their faith as well as the peace and unity of the Church. Jude 1:11 mentioned three points about corruption – walking in the way of Cain, abandoning oneself for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perishing in Korah's rebellion. Walking in the way of Cain refers to refusing to admit one's sin and sinning further after correction. Abandoning to follow God's way for the sake of gain in the case of Balaam's error means to allow gain such as money to have a hold over our lives. Perishing in Korah's rebellion is to go against authority with a false charge. Seek God's wisdom which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere" (James 3:17). Good theology results in good behaviour which in turn builds up the Church in love.

QUESTIONS

1. In teaching on how to discern the voice of corruption, Ps Darren quoted Jude 1:11 which gave 3 examples of what false teachers are like. The 3 examples are (i) walking in the way of Cain (ii) abandoning oneself for the sake of gain to Balaam's error (iii) Korah's rebellion. Share one lesson you have learnt from these examples.

2. Reflecting on these three points, which ones do you see yourself struggling with the most and why? For example, our posture when we do not see eye to eye with authority. How have these areas affected your life, your thoughts and actions towards others?

3. What are some ways that can help you to both work on the areas you struggle with and also prevent yourself from falling back into that way of life? How can the cell journey along with you?