



## A Dose of Discernment Jude 10-15

➤ *Opening Question: “Do you have a story of discernment in your life”?*

To defend the faith you must be able to recognize error

### 1. Examine the motives of those who teach (vs. 10- 11)

Are they guided by self? – Cain  
(Genesis 4)

Are they greedy for stuff? – Balaam  
(Num. 31:16; 2 Peter 2:15-16, cf. Rev. 2:14)

Are they greedy for significance? – Korah  
(Num 16:1-35)

So: Stop and ask some questions

#### Enoch’s prophecy

This prophecy pointed to the glorious return of Christ to the earth with thousands upon thousands of His angels (holy ones) (Matt. 24:30; 2 Thess. 1:10), when His purpose will be to judge everyone (2 Thess. 1:7-10) and to convict all the ungodly with unanswerable evidence that their actions, manners, and words have been ungodly

➤ *How can we ensure our motives are always right?*

2. Look beyond the appearance of those who teach (vs. 12-15)

Do they produce refreshment or dryness? – Clouds

Do they produce nourishment or starvation? – Trees

Do they produce guidance or lostness? - Stars

So: Don't take everything at face value

➤ *What is evidence of true “success” in ministry?*

Conclusion: A dose of discernment will offer great protection

Bonus: The Rules of Truth Detection

1. If the teaching doesn't “seem right” - watch out
2. If the teacher doesn't seem sincere - watch out
3. If there is a minimum amount of Bible and a maximum amount of conjecture - watch out
4. If there isn't a chapter and verse- watch out
5. If the teaching elevates man rather than God - watch out
6. If there is a “hidden meaning” - watch out
7. If the teaching leans toward extreme freedom of behavior – watch out
8. If the teaching leans toward extreme legalism in behavior - watch out
9. If the teaching mars the doctrine of Christ—watch out

*Preview: Session Four*

*Read entire book once*

*Re-read verses 16-25*

*Pray for discernment in your life and in others in the body of Christ.*