

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 7



*Contend  
for the faith  
which was  
once delivered  
to the saints*  
Jude 1:3

## FILTHY DREAMERS

*Scripture Text: Jude 8*

In **verse 8**, Jude was speaking of his day, and he used the historical accounts in **verses 7 and 9** in a parallel fashion to give us understanding of the outgrowths of the nature of apostasy.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*

—Matthew 5:37

### Vain Dreamers

**Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh.** By using the word *likewise*, or in like manner, Jude wanted his readers to think back to **verses 4, 6, and 7**. He wanted us to think of the sinful actions that were committed there and of the ones who were responsible for them. In the King James Version, Jude called these ones *filthy dreamers*. The actual Greek translation is “these dreaming ones.” Another translation says it this way: “These men, too, cherish vain dreams.” All these translations mean the same thing: apostasy starts with ones who cherish wrong dreams, or wrong thinking.

The word *dream* comes from the Greek word *enupnion* meaning “something seen in sleep.” *Webster’s New World Dictionary* tells us it means “thoughts passing through a sleeping person’s mind.” Vain dreams are not of a divine origin nor are they sound, and following them leads to defilement of the flesh. Any divinely inspired thought will lead to more spirituality not less. This truth proves that apostasy is a result of wrong thinking. This is why we should be “casting down imaginations, and . . . bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). Unwholesome thoughts will enter our minds, so we do need to guard our thoughts. If they are allowed entrance to the heart, they will manifest themselves through the flesh.

### Despisers of Church Government

**Despise dominion.** **2 Peter 2:10** also deals with the same thought of despising government. It says, “But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.” When Peter said that they “despise government,” he was not speaking of civil government. He meant church government. Both Jude and Peter taught that apostates will assault divinely instituted church government.

The word *dominion* comes from the Greek word *kuriotes*, which means “rulers, dominions, and governments.” The true church is not an anarchy. It is a theocracy; it is governed by divine rule. **Ephesians 4:11** tells us that God gave some men the gifts of being apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

**Hebrews 13:17** admonishes us to “obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves.” Who rules over us? The ministry. In **Revelation 4:4** the ministry is called the “four and twenty elders,” an illusion to the Levitical priesthood. **1 Chronicles 24:5** says the ministry is “the governors of the sanctuary, and governors of the house of God.” **1 Timothy 3:15** states, “The house of God . . . is the church of the living God.”

### Fearless Speakers

**Speak evil of dignities.** Peter said that apostates are “Pre-sumptuous” and “self-willed.” They want to yield to evil dreams and evil thoughts because they appeal to self and to an unrestrained will. Since apostates dislike to be governed by truth, they will attempt to change it to make it compatible with their self-will. Anything or

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anyone that attempts to place any control or restraint on their flesh or carnal desires and activities is going to be an object of their scorn.

When apostates feel that someone is attempting to set forth divine government that will place restrictions on the flesh, they immediately attack by speaking against those who are honored and esteemed. In every age, those who have wanted to change the direction of the church have done this. Their purpose for discrediting the leaders is to turn the heads of the people. They are not afraid to *speak evil* of leaders because they have lost the fear of God, and they feel that they should be the leaders.

### A Good Test

Can you see how self-will helps promote apostasy? Dreams or thoughts that are not brought into captivity, in obedience to Christ, go to the heart. **Proverbs 4:23** says, “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” **Proverbs 23:7** states, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” In other words, what gets into your heart determines how you live.

A good test to put on any dream, thought, or doctrine when it comes to you is to ask yourself these questions: “What effect will this have on my overall spirituality? How victorious are the ones who are trying to persuade me?” **Matthew 7:15** says, “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing.” Jesus said to check the fruits of people’s lives because “by their fruits ye shall know them” (**Matthew 7:20**). See what a person’s life produces before you give any consideration to following that individual’s lifestyle.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**It is not the tracks before that throw us  
but the tracks that are behind us.**