**Faith Foundations 2022-2023**

**The Catholic Epistles, Part 2**

**Session 11—Jude 17-25**

**In today’s lesson, we end our study of Jude’s epistle with his final exhortation to his readers to persevere in the truth. Though the church is often threatened by heresies and false doctrine, Jesus remains faithful to His people, and He does not allow evil and error to overcome them fully. In encouraging his readers to stay strong in their faith, he expresses confidence that God will help them to do exactly that.**

**Read Jude 17-23. According to Jude, what “predictions” of the apostles do his readers need to remember? Why is this so important?**

**Recalling our lessons on 2 Peter, what do the “scoffers” claim about Jesus?**

**What actually motivates the scoffers? What do they want to follow?**

**How does Jude describe the scoffers in verse 19? What do they cause, and what do they lack?**

**How do we “build ourselves up” in the faith and “keep ourselves in the love of God?”**

**What does it mean to pray “in the Spirit?”**

**When will the “mercy” of Christ that leads to eternal life be revealed? How has it already been revealed in a sense?**

**Why would it be important to have mercy on those who doubt? How do we do this?**

**How can we “snatch [others] out of the fire?”**

**In the context of the passage, what does Jude mean by “show mercy” in verse 23 (look again at verse 22)? Why would he tell us to show mercy “with fear?”**

**What does it mean to “[hate] even the garment stained by the flesh?” How do we do this?**

**Read Jude 24-25. How does Jude’s doxology give us encouragement in the face of the task of avoiding false teachings? What will God do for us as we strive to do this?**

**Jude ends his epistle on a positive and hopeful note, despite the many negative things he has to say about false teachers. In the end, God will defeat all of His enemies, and His people will be preserved from the heresies that could cause them to fall away. However, because we live in a sinful world, we will have to be constantly on guard against those who would threaten our faith. Thankfully, God is able and willing to keep us on the straight and narrow path. May we ever trust Him to do this for us, so that when Jesus returns, we will be ready to receive Him rightly!**