



# SNATCHING MEN OUT OF THE FIRE

**Jude 22-23**

# Introduction

- When we think of fire, we are cautious or perhaps even fearful.
- We understand the damage that fire can do.
- But what if a loved one were trapped in a burning building? Many would risk their life to rescue their loved one.
- But would we do the same thing spiritually?

# Introduction

- The book of Jude is a small letter warning about false teachers.
- He concludes his letter with this admonition:  
*And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling (snatching – NASB, ESV, LSB) them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. **Jude 22-23***
- Tonight I would like to discuss what it means to snatch men out of the fire.

## The Text

- Fire implies danger. We know this physically. It is equally true spiritually.
- The one caught in sin now – living trapped
- **2 Timothy 2:26**, the servant of the Lord teaches hoping to help others come to repentance and escape the snares of the devil.
- **1 Peter 5:8** – he seeks to devour you.

## The Text

- Fire implies danger - spiritually.
- The one caught in sin now – living trapped
- **1 John 5:19** – the world is under his sway
- **Colossians 2:8** cheated (taken captive) through philosophies of men.
- Sin is like a devouring fire - out of control

# The Text

- Fire implies danger - spiritually.
- The fires of hell – eternal reward for the lost
- Wailing and gnashing of teeth – **Matthew 13:41-42, 22:13, 25:30, etc.**
- Other descriptions - eternal consciousness, outer darkness, the maggot does not die (eternal decay), the destiny of the wicked and Satan. God will NOT be there.

# The Text

- Fire implies danger - spiritually.
- The fires of hell – eternal reward for the lost
- **Mark 9:44** – the fire is not quenched
- **Matthew 3:12** – John warned of Jesus burning the chaff with unquenchable fire
- **Matthew 25:41** – everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels
- **Revelations 21:8** – lake of fire and brimstone
- **Revelation 14:9-11** – smoke of their torments ascends forever and ever.
- If you have ever dealt with a serious burn...

# Why snatch men out of the fire?

- Because it is commanded
- Consider the fireman – he is trained. It is his job! On scene he will not just stand around & watch.
- Save is an imperative verb.
- **Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16** – the “great commission” – fulfilled by all of us
- God WANTS us to look for opportunities to share His gospel with others

# Why snatch men out of the fire?

- Because we are dealing with souls
- In a fire, when life is involved, it becomes a priority (property is secondary).
- EVERY soul will spend eternity somewhere.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:7** – the spirit returns to God who gave it.
- There are only 2 places – **Matthew 25:46, Romans 14:10-12, John 5:28-29**
- What is more valuable than the soul?  
**Matthew 16:26**

# Why snatch men out of the fire?

- Because fire is deadly and doesn't wait
- It moves quickly and devastatingly through its kindling.
- The fires of hell and sin have deadly consequences. They must be dealt with NOW!
- **Romans 6:23** – the wages of sin
- NOTE: This applies to brethren as well –  
**Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:19-20**

# Why snatch men out of the fire?

- Because someone has to act
- We cannot depend on others to “put out the fire”.
- Right or wrong, if you have opportunity, don’t depend on others. **Galatians 6:5**
- Angels will not miraculously save. Satan will not. The ungodly will not. Sometimes other brethren expect someone else to act.
- You are responsible for what you are able to do. **Romans 14:12** – you will answer for you.

# Why snatch men out of the fire?

- Because you have been snatched out of the fire
- How much do we appreciate the efforts someone took to teach us the gospel? How grateful are we?
- Many of those Jesus healed rejoiced and could not keep it to themselves
- Gratitude ought to be a motivation to share
- That clearly describes Paul – **Romans 10:1** – his heart's desire for Israel. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**
- What do you get excited about? It will become evident. Will we exert that energy on trying to snatch men out of fire?

## What is involved ?

- Making preparations
- Firemen continually train and maintain their equipment. They are not finished with a call until they are prepared for the next one.
- IF you want to be effective reaching others, you need to prepare. **1 Peter 3:15.**
- Study God's word, work with effective materials, pray about it, live it, etc.

## What is involved ?

- Urgency
- Why do emergency vehicles have priority?  
Because seconds matter.
- The Greek word for *snatching* means to grab something hastily or eagerly. Every moment counts.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**
- **2 Corinthians 6:2** – now is the time of salvation.

## What is involved ?

- Use the right tools
- Every call for firemen is different. They will adapt what they use for the call. They need to know where every tool is.
- Spiritually, different people need different approaches (with the same message & goal)
- On some have **compassion** – gentleness. The default manner.
  - Jesus – **Matthew 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34**
  - **Philippians 4:5** – let your gentleness be known to all men.
  - **2 Timothy 2:24-26** – the servant of the Lord

## What is involved ?

- Use the right tools
- Some **save with fear** – a great motivator. Sometimes people need to be shaken up. (Typically when gentleness does not work)
  - Some just know better – **cf. Galatians 2:11ff**
  - A soul in danger needs attention now!
  - **Titus 3:10** – reject after 2 admonitions
- NOTE: The reality of hell is not pleasant and ought to provoke fear. It is a powerful “tool” is studying with others

## What is involved ?

- Use the right tools
- Hating even the garments – avoiding that which causes the damage. A firefighter does not go to a fire with t-shirt, shorts and sandals.
- The garments of our text – lusts & temptations. The resources that give Satan an advantage –  
**cf. 2 Corinthians 2:11**
- **Ephesians 6:10-18** – as we fight this fire, we need the armor of God.
- We must hate sin so much we will not be wearing what is sinful ourselves (physically & spiritually)

## What is involved ?

- Taking a risk
- Fighting fires is a dangerous job. Every call can lead to danger. But they must act to put out the fire.
- Similarly, seeking the lost comes with risks. But you have to try.
- Typically, most things worthwhile come with some risk. We act in “faith”

## What is involved ?

- Don't get burned yourself
- Firefighters use every precaution they can to avoid being burned.
- Our goal in snatching others out of the fire is to NOT get caught in the sinful behaviors of others.
- **Galatians 6:1** – considering yourself
- **2 Peter 2:19-20** – by whom a person is overcome...
- You do NOT have to be a partaker of sin to help someone struggling with it.

## Concluding thoughts

- Jesus came into this world to snatch men out of the fiery grasp of Satan. He was victorious.
- He has given us the tools we need to act.
- If He has grasped you out of the fire and claimed you as His, won't you do the same for others?
- HOW you respond may have a bearing on your soul!



Have you been  
snatched out of the fire?

**Jude 22-23**