

Fighting for the Lost

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How many times per week does an Amazon package show up at your door? Listen, don't look at your spouse. I'm not trying to start something. I'm just curious.

I asked somebody earlier. They said 15. Fifteen times per week.

Think about this: How many times do you think an Amazon package shows up at just the average American house? Everybody in America, every household in America. It's crazy. If you break down the numbers, more than three times per week, an Amazon truck is pulling up to the house of the average family in America.

I'm not sure if that's good or bad. I'm not here to talk about that. But I can confidently say that, in one instance very, very recently, an Amazon delivery is exactly what a certain family needed.

It happened in Alabama. There was an Amazon driver named Nema Elmor, and she was driving her normal route. She came around a corner and saw a home that was on fire. The home was all the way on fire. Flames were there. Flames were coming out of the roof.

She did what probably very few other people would do. She pulled into the driveway. There were no fire trucks there yet, so she pulled into their driveway and called 911. They said, "Help is on the way."

But she didn't wait for the help. She jumped out and started banging on the door of this house to see if there was anybody inside. A guy answered the door, and he was disoriented. He was groggy. You could tell the smoke had gotten to him, and he was a little older. So she pulled him out of the house and set him down by her Amazon van.

Then she learned there was an elderly woman inside as well. She ran inside and looked at the stairs, and the stairs were on fire. But she ran up the stairs anyway. She got this older lady, dragged her out of the house, and set her next to the van as well.

They turned around and looked, and at that point the roof caved in on the house.

She saved them. The Amazon delivery driver saved this family and brought them out. She's a hero. Think about why: Her eyes were open, she was willing, and then she took action.

I want us to think about something. There are people in our lives right now. There are people you know, people you love. They're in danger as well - not from a fire, but they're facing something far more permanent.

God is asking you the same question He put in front of Nema right there: Are you going to stop and help? Are

you going to help the people God has placed in your life?

This morning, we're going to see that in the book of Jude. If you've got your Bible, turn to Jude. It's right there toward the end, the second-to-last book of your Bible. Go to the end. It's a very, very short book.

We're going to be looking at verses 22 and 23 as we continue our series, Fighting for What Matters. This morning, our title and our main idea are the same thing: We are called to fight for the lost. That's our title. That's our main idea. Everything is centered around that.

We're going to start in verse 22. Look at it with me:

*And have mercy on those who doubt;
save others by snatching them out of the fire;
to others show mercy with fear,
hating even the garment stained by the flesh.*
— Jude 22-23

Pause there.

Just looking at those two verses, you can probably tell Jude is a very intense book of the Bible. It is a very, very intensely packed chapter. It's a letter written to the New Testament church from Jude, who was the half brother of Jesus.

In the letter, he warns of false teachers. He encourages us to anchor down in our faith, to persevere in our faith, and to help other people persevere in the faith as well. We see that in the last verses I read.

Essentially, he's saying, "Hey, listen, God has shown us this incredible, loving mercy. Let's now extend that same mercy to others, and let's do it for the sake of their souls."

This is a call to fight for the lost, and in these two verses, he gives us a formula for it.

This matters. It matters that we understand this. Jesus said in Luke 19:10:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
— Luke 19:10

That's me. He came for us, to bring us into a relationship with Him. We know, because we've read the Bible and because we talked about making disciples just a couple of weeks ago, that God's plan now is to send those of us who know Him out into the world to those who do not yet know Him.

We can't talk about this enough. The Barna Group recently published a study on evangelism, just sharing the gospel, and here's what they found: Forty-seven percent of millennials who identify as Christians believe that it is wrong to share your faith with someone, hoping that the person you're talking to would understand and believe along with you. They believe it's wrong to do that.

Their mindset is that faith is private and that everyone should figure it out for themselves.

No. That's not what the Bible teaches at all. They've got this massive gap between belief and action.

As Christians, if we truly believe that there's nothing better anyone could ever experience in this world or for eternity than the love of Jesus, if we truly believe that knowing Jesus leads to eternal life and that apart from Jesus we experience death, we can't walk around like my generation, thinking this is a private matter.

That would be like the Amazon driver seeing the house on fire and just continuing to drive. No, we can't do that.

We've got to take on the mindset of Charles Spurgeon when it comes to this. This is a famous quote. You've probably heard it before. It's one I hope you don't forget.

Charles Spurgeon said, "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to hell over our bodies. If they're going to perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped around their knees, holding on to them. Let no one go there unwarned or unprayed for."

Based on Jude's letter, he would 1,000% agree with Spurgeon.

I want to look at these two verses, and I'm going to give you three points and three action steps that go with them. They're very practical for all of us as we do what God has called us to do, fighting for the lost, for the people God has placed in our lives.

I want you to think about the people Jude talks about here. If your Bible is still open there, he describes three kinds of people. He's going to describe people who have genuine doubts. He's going to describe people who are really close to judgment, and they might not even know it. Then he's going to describe people who are caught up in an unrepentant lifestyle of sin.

Every single one of us knows people like that in our lives. Some of them might be in our church family. Others might be in our family at home. We might have people like that in our lives at school, at work, or socially.

Listen, God has everybody in this room connected in so many different places for the glory of God, for God's plan and God's purposes. Just as God sent Jesus, Jesus has told us He is sending us.

So let's get out there and fight for people in our lives like Jude is telling us to do.

Have Mercy on Those Who Doubt

Here's our first point. It comes from verse 22:

And have mercy on those who doubt.
— Jude 22

Have mercy on them.

Early in the letter, there is a warning that false teachers are going to appear. They're going to try to make their way into the church, which means that even people who have trusted in Christ are going to hear messages that could confuse them. They're going to hear messages that could lead them astray or cause them to doubt.

We know that. We understand it. We hear messages like that in the world today. What Jude is telling us here is, "Hey, have mercy on those who hear these kinds of messages that might cause them to doubt what they know."

Mercy. The word tense here points to action. This is an active call to show mercy. This is not just a feeling. It's not just an "Oh, bless your heart" kind of moment. Mercy is an action that is lived out toward another person.

Here's an easy definition we can put together: It's compassionate action taken toward someone in need. That's what mercy is. It's compassionate action taken toward someone in need. It's going to look different in different circumstances, and it happens, by the way, whether you believe they deserve it or not. That's mercy.

Think for a minute about why God's command is mercy in scenarios like this. That phrase, "those who doubt" - not to give a grammar lesson - is a present participle, which means that, for this doubter, there is an ongoing internal conflict here.

This is a person who is actively divided. This is a person who is being pulled strongly in two different directions. This is not a lazy person. This is not a spiritually checked-out person or a spiritually apathetic person. This is a person who is really wrestling with the truth and these other messages.

This is a person who is really, strongly considering what's going on, and they haven't decided where they're going to land yet.

Knowing that about this person, knowing that's what's going on in their heart or mind, should change everything about how we approach them.

Listen, to mock a person like that is not the answer, unless you're trying to push them away from the faith. If someone's struggling with serious doubts and opens up to you for discussion, the worst thing you could do would be to belittle their questions or ignore their questions. It's the opposite of what we're called to do.

We don't mock. We don't dismiss. We don't make them feel little for asking the question. We don't ignore them. We show mercy.

How? What's the compassionate action you can take toward someone wrestling with doubt?

I believe this is it. Here's the action step that goes with point one: Help them resolve their doubts. Just help them out.

When we show mercy, we're having compassion. In our hearts, we deeply care for the heart, the soul, and the life of our friend. We want to do everything we can to very gently and lovingly come alongside them. We want to walk right next to them through their questions and through their doubts.

To ignore the doubts is not loving. It's not showing mercy. Wade into it with them. Open your Bible with them. Ask the questions with them, and look for the answers with them, all while displaying the love and kindness of Jesus Christ.

As you do, I'm telling you, God is going to do what only God can do in a person's heart to resolve those

doubts.

Here's an incredible story that gives us a picture of that. It happened about 20 years ago.

A lot of you have heard the name Rosaria Butterfield. Rosaria Butterfield was a tenured English professor and women's studies professor at Syracuse University. She was a very loud, outspoken critic of Christianity and Christians. That was her life. She was also a very loud, outspoken proponent of alternative lifestyles, as she herself was living one.

At one point, for the university, she wrote this scathing review of Christians. She put it out there and just torched Christians and Christian organizations. It was the kind of review that was very controversial and got a lot of mail and feedback sent to her. Unfortunately, the majority of the mail she received was hate mail from Christians.

But there was one letter that stood out. She received a letter from a man named Ken Smith. His letter was kind. His letter was theologically honest and true, and he asked real questions about her doubts about Christianity and her doubts about Christians. He asked what she really believed.

As Rosaria opened that letter, after she had opened so many other letters that were not filled with the love of Jesus, she was surprised. This was a Christian who wasn't acting like she thought Christians would act.

So she called him. She looked him up and called Ken. Ken was on the phone with her, and he said, "Why don't you just come out to our house and have dinner with me and my wife?"

She was blown away that she was now invited into the home of a Christian. So she said, "Okay, I'll go. I'll see what these people are all about."

For two years, they had dinners together almost once per week. She got into the house, sat down, and they walked with her through her doubts about the Bible and through her doubts about the faith.

He explained up front, "Hey, listen, we love you. We are accepting of you. We're not approving of your lifestyle and your beliefs." They were on the same page from the beginning.

For two years, because Ken and his wife walked with her through her doubts, do you know what she did? She explored. She was trying to answer the questions. She read her Bible all the way through seven times in those two years.

I wonder how many believers read their Bible seven times in two years.

It was all because a faithful Christian was showing her mercy. They had been meeting for two years. God worked like only He can work to resolve these doubts, and she trusted Christ as her Savior - not because someone argued her doubts away, but because somebody met her doubts with mercy.

She writes her story in a book that I would highly recommend. If you're looking for a few things to put on your summer reading list, this is a great one for believers. It encourages us to show that kind of mercy, that compassionate hospitality, to those who might be doubting. It's called *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*.

If you're looking for a book to read this summer, if you're going on vacation or you're going to be on a plane, it's not a super long one. It's an easy one, but it's going to make you think about the people in your life.

I'm telling you, man, wade into it with mercy. Prayerfully, you're going to see doubters in your life trust Christ, just like Rosaria did.

But this passage doesn't just talk about doubters. There's more to it.

Deal Quickly With Those Who Are in Danger

Look at verse 23:

Save others by snatching them out of the fire.
— Jude 23

This leads us to our second point this morning: Deal quickly with those who are in danger.

This is a quick thing. The verse says, "Snatching them out of the fire." This is an urgent action. This is an emergency. This is not something we're waiting on.

I want to go ahead and give you permission now. If you ever see me in a fire and I am burning, get me out of it. Reach in. You can put your hands on me, whatever you've got to do, and get me out of the fire immediately.

Don't wait for me to ask you to do it. Don't check your calendar. Don't take a fire rescue class, and don't call a firefighter. If I'm burning, get me out.

In an emergency, you don't wait for a more convenient moment. You just act. You just do it.

That's what Jude is talking about here. He's saying there are people in your life who are really close to the edge. There are people who do not believe in Christ, either because they've never heard the gospel or because they've been rejecting the gospel. Their time on this earth is short, and they don't even know it.

We try to push this out of our minds sometimes, but listen, we know. The Bible tells us those who die apart from Christ will spend eternity apart from Christ.

We know heaven is real. We know hell is real. We know eternity is real. We know that every single one of us, and every single person we know, is going to spend it somewhere.

Jude is saying some people are close to eternity, and they don't know it yet. He's not just talking about older people or sick people. He's telling us that, at some point, we are all stepping into eternity, and we don't know when that's going to be.

So Jude says, "Fight for them by snatching them out of the fire before it's too late." He's saying, "Share the gospel. Give them the good news of Jesus. Make sure they have every single chance to know, hear, and surrender their life to Him and Him alone."

Jude says there's a clock. There's a clock on the people in our lives.

Carl Henry, the author, said, "The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."

Save others by snatching them out of the fire.
— Jude 23

It's a violent command. It implies force. It implies speed. It implies effort. If you're trying to get somebody out of a fire, you don't do that halfway. You are fully committed to that, and you go in to get them out.

The most loving thing you can do for someone who's in trouble is to act.

Years ago, I was outside. We had just mowed the yard. My kids weren't old enough to do it all the way by themselves yet. We had just finished mowing the yard, and I was there with the leaf blower. I had my headphones in, the blower was loud, and I was almost done.

I looked up and saw Chelsea on our driveway, and it was like she was playing charades. She was moving around, dancing, yelling, and pointing. She was going nuts, and I didn't know what was going on.

So I set the blower down, turned it off, and pulled my headphones out. She was saying, "Look! Look! Look! Turn around!"

I turned around and saw a man with a gun. He was pointing it at a teenager, and they were standing in their driveway about 50 feet away from me.

I recognized both of them right away, but it was clear that they didn't recognize one another. This was a serious situation.

I ran over and stood sort of off to the side of them, trying to de-escalate what was going on. I was scared. The man was scared. The teenager was scared. I was like, "What is happening here? What is going on?"

The teenager was a big kid, bigger than me. He could have squashed me if he wanted to.

The guy said, "He followed my wife into the garage. He tried to grab her. He tried to get into our house, and she shut the door. He's banging on the door, and he won't leave our house. I don't know what's going on here."

In that moment, I recognized the kid. The kid used to live there. He had special needs, and he was on a jog around the neighborhood. He got back to that house and was just trying to get back into his old home.

The guy who lived there had no way of knowing that. And that kid had no earthly idea why this man was there, trying to keep him out of his house. It was a tragic misunderstanding unfolding right there.

This kid had no idea how close he was. He had no idea what was about to happen to him. The guy was giving him one last warning, saying, "Get away from my house."

The kid was just trying to go inside. The kid started walking up more, and the guy raised the gun. So I jumped in front of the kid and grabbed him like this, sort of bear-hugged him backward. I started walking him backward, away from the danger, trying to explain to the guy, "He's just trying to go home. That's it. He's just trying to go home. Let's call his dad, and we'll get his dad to come pick him up and take him home."

Finally, it clicked. The guy understood what was going on. He understood that he wasn't in danger and his family wasn't in danger. Everybody breathed a sigh of relief.

We called the kid's dad, and the dad came, picked him up, and drove him home.

I'm telling you, that kid had no idea how close he was to a situation he was not going to come back from.

Sometimes the most loving thing we can do for the people God places in our path is to walk them away from danger. Jude tells us that is true spiritually.

There are people who, spiritually, have no idea how close they are to the edge. We've got to deal quickly with them. This isn't a long-build-up kind of thing. This isn't a long-ramp-up kind of thing. We need to deal quickly with those who are in danger.

How do we do it? Here's the action step: Speak up now. That's it. Speak up, and do it now.

A few weeks ago, I pointed to Acts chapter 8. It's where Philip "opened his mouth." That was the phrase we looked at. He opened his mouth to share the good news of Jesus.

People who don't know Jesus as Savior need someone who does know Jesus to open their mouth and speak up with the truth of the Word of God.

So I want to encourage you: Make sure you know what to say. Make sure you know what to say.

I'm not going to walk all the way through that again. I did that about three weeks ago. If you weren't here three weeks ago, get on our website and look at that sermon. I think it's called "Making Disciples" from about three weeks ago.

In that sermon, we looked at stuff like this. We talked about it, and I gave you three tools and resources. One was called the bridge outline, and I showed you how to share the gospel with it. I talked about the Romans Road, and I talked about the Three Circles outline as well. I gave you the app for all of those.

Make sure you know what to say.

A lot of your kids are out of school already for the summer. Some of your kids are about to be out of school. A great thing for you to do as a family this summer is to make sure you all know what to say.

Memorize the bridge and how to share the gospel. Memorize the Romans Road and how to share the gospel. Memorize the Three Circles and how to share the gospel.

Moms and dads, do that with your kids this summer. It'll cement in their hearts and lives the truth of the Word of God. You'll equip them with the words to say, and you'll probably learn a little bit yourself about what to say when God gives you the opportunity to speak up spiritually in someone's life.

So speak up. Know what to say.

When do we do it? Jude says, "Now." Right now is the moment. We have no idea what kind of time we're dealing with. If we find someone in a fire, we just go for it and get them out. That's what we're told to do.

But what I've found is that there are a lot of believers waiting for a special moment. They're waiting for this magical moment when someone they deeply love and care about is going to come up to them and say, "You know what? I know that you're a Christian, and I've been thinking about it for a little while. I want to be a Christian too. Will you tell me how I can become a Christian, how I can believe in Jesus?"

There are a lot of people waiting for that moment. For most of us, it's not going to happen. It's just not. You can't sit back and wait for that moment.

Let me suggest an alternative method instead. This is a four-part method. If you haven't been taking notes yet, at least get your phone out in a minute and take a picture of this at the end. All of the steps are going to be on the screen. It's a way we can do what Jude is telling us to do here.

You can do steps one and two right now in your seats.

Step one is simply this: Write down the name of someone who doesn't know Jesus whom God has placed in your life.

We've all got one, two, ten, or twenty. We've all got people in our lives who don't know Jesus as Savior. If you're thinking of their name right now, that's the Holy Spirit working inside you. That is God working in you now. Write their name down. Think about it.

Step two is this: Understand that loving them means sharing Jesus with them.

You care about that person. The most loving thing you can do - and there is not a close second - is talk about how Jesus has changed your life and how Jesus can change theirs as well.

Step three is where we start doing this. We're not waiting for that magical moment. Set up a lunch or coffee in the next two weeks.

I'm giving you a deadline: the next two weeks. This is not something you're going to do at the Thanksgiving table this year. In the next two weeks, as you're heading into it, schedule it. Don't put it off.

You schedule everything. You schedule work meetings. You schedule your dentist appointments. You don't want to go to the dentist, but you know you need to, and you schedule it anyway. You schedule your kids' stuff.

Schedule this. This is more important than all of that. Schedule it.

Then step four is when you sit down.

I'm telling you, I want you to think about what I'm saying here. When you sit down with the person, the conversation could feel a little awkward. You could feel like you don't want to push something on them.

So when you sit down, say something along these lines. It's a great opening line or a great line when you're wanting to transition to the gospel: "Hey, I've had something on my heart and mind for a while, and I'd love to share it with you. Is that okay?"

Look at the last three words: "Is that okay?" Say that.

Here's why. 99.9% of people on this earth, especially people who care enough about you to go to lunch with you, when you say, "Is that okay?" what are they going to say?

That's not rhetorical. You can answer. What are they going to say?

"Yes."

If they say no, you've got some weird friends. They're probably going to say yes.

When they say yes, what have they just done? They've given you permission to say whatever you want to say. You're not forcing anything on them. They've allowed you. They've told you, "Yes, it is okay. You can share whatever you want to share with me right here, right now, in this moment."

When they give you that kind of permission, speak up.

You don't have to prepare a lecture. Just speak from the heart. "Man, this is what God has done in my life. I am so thankful for what He's done in my life time and time again. I've seen Him be faithful. Man, I love you. I care about you. This has changed me. I know it can change you as well. I'd love to tell you more about how you can trust Jesus like I have."

That's it. Don't wait for the right moment. Set it up and act now. Jude says time is short, so share Jesus.

When I say, "Share Jesus," people look at me and they're like, "Your job?"

I'm like, "Well, sort of."

But let me clearly say it's our job. It's the job of every single one of us.

Matthew 28: If you're a disciple, you go make disciples. If you've witnessed - Emily just sang about it - what are we going to do? We're going to tell people what we have witnessed.

That song is Acts 1:8, where Jesus says, "You guys are going to go out now. You're going to be My witnesses. You're going to tell people what you've seen and heard from Me. Go do it."

Every single one of us is called to personally lead people to Christ.

I would just say that, generally speaking, believers in our country are not getting better at this. They're getting worse at this. There's less ownership in this. There's more of a shift.

People are thinking, "Oh, my pastor will do that," or, "My life group teacher will do that," or, "This person at my church is really, really good at that. They're going to do all of that. I don't need to worry about that."

So much so, we're seeing some numbers decline in the United States.

I read this this week while studying. The North American Mission Board put out some stats. In the year 1950 - that's a long time ago - in the United States, in Southern Baptist churches, it took 19 people in attendance at your church to see one person saved and baptized.

Think about what that means. Nineteen people in the church were going out, fighting for the lost, and sharing the gospel in the community, in their schools, in their neighborhoods, in their workplaces, on their sports teams, wherever God had them. Nineteen people were out doing that, and a church would see one person trust in Christ and get baptized.

Then, in 2004, a little over 50 years later, fewer people were owning it. More people were hoping somebody else would do it. So it went from 19 to 1 to 42 to 1. It took more than twice as many believers out in the community sharing the gospel to see one person saved and baptized.

What do you think about today? Where do you think that number is going?

What do you think about our church? That's very simple math. I'm an Aggie. I can do this math.

Listen, it's very simple. I could put our average worship attendance from last year into this, and our baptisms into this, and do the math to see what it looks like here.

This might surprise you, and I hope this encourages us to do this.

See that? Caught it. The number's a little different, isn't it? Hold on. I forgot the decimal point.

6.57 to 1.

Now, that's good. What's going on here in this church family is more evangelistic than what was happening in the church in 1950, a long, long time ago.

When I did that, I wasn't sure what the number was going to be, but I was very encouraged to see that it's about 6.5 to 1. Very, very encouraged.

So let me just say, church, great job. Great, great job.

Our focus priorities are: Number one, make disciples. Number two, love our community. The fact that we're around 6.5 to 1 on this shows that, as a church, we're living this out. Our desire is to make disciples. Our desire is to love our community. We know there is no more loving thing we can do in our community than share the good news and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

But here's the deal: It's not a competition, and we're not trying to compare ourselves to different stats that are out there. At the end of the day, if there's one person out there who doesn't know Jesus as Lord and Savior, we've got to be out there speaking up with the good news of Christ.

He says, "Speak up, and do it now."

He's addressed those who doubt. He's addressed those who are close to eternity. Third, he addresses those who are tangled up in sin.

Deal Carefully With Those Who Are Stuck in Sin

Look at verse 23:

*To others show mercy with fear,
hating even the garment stained by the flesh.*
— Jude 23

That brings us to point three: Deal carefully with those who are stuck in sin. Deal carefully.

A few points of clarification, and then I'm going to move to explanation.

The first is this: I know I'm not perfect, and you aren't perfect. Every single one of us is going to sin. This verse isn't talking about a believer who has made a mistake, feels conviction in their heart, and is repentant of it.

This verse is talking about people who are actively choosing to remain in sin. They have no intention of changing. You know the difference between those two.

Second, the garment mentioned here describes an intimate piece of clothing, the piece of clothing that was closest to the body back then. We aren't first-century Jewish people, so we might miss the metaphor.

What Jude is doing is presenting a metaphor from Levitical purity laws, where one person could become unclean by touching, not another person in this case, but a stained garment. Are you tracking?

In Levitical law, it wasn't the person; it was the garment that could make you unclean.

We're seeing here, "Love the person, but be very careful as you deal with their sin."

If we put it together, we see that we're called to show mercy - mercy to those who are actively choosing to walk in sin. We're called to show that mercy with fear.

Mercy toward the person. We talked about that already. That is compassionate action in their life. Mercy toward the person, but a reverent, God-directed caution about the power of their sin.

Make sure you get this: Jude is not calling believers to hate, shun, or be scared of lost people. We're to show them mercy, lean in, and engage them with the love of Jesus. But we're to do so with a healthy and serious respect for the gravitational pull of sin.

Paul gives a very similar instruction in Galatians chapter 6: mercy for the person, reverent fear for the danger of sin.

Show mercy, but don't get pulled under into that same sin with them.

A lifeguard is a great picture of this. At the beach, when lifeguards see a swimmer who is struggling or beginning to drown, what do they do? They don't hesitate, do they? They're straight into the water, going out to the one who's in trouble.

That's the beginning of the verse. Immediately, they're showing mercy to the person who's struggling.

But did you know that lifeguards, when they get out there, are trained to keep their little floating, life-saving device between themselves and the person who is drowning until they've assessed the situation?

Do you know why? When someone is drowning, they're panicking. They're going to grab on to anything they can grab on to that they think might keep them from drowning. If the lifeguard gets too close to them, that drowning person is going to grab on to the lifeguard, and he's going to take both of them down.

The lifeguard is trained to use wisdom and keep that device between the two, to let the drowning person grab the device, and then pull them in to safety. There's a healthy fear there.

What's our action step in scenarios like this?

We consistently show people who are struggling with sin, "God has something far greater in store for you."

You can tell a person in that position they're wrong, but a lot of times they know they're wrong, and they just don't care. It's so much more effective to consistently say and show, "God has a better future in store for you. God's plan is going to lead to blessing and life. You've got to walk with Him."

All of us know people in our lives right now who are willingly walking in sin. Maybe they're people in our family, maybe in our community, or maybe people right here in our church.

I want to encourage you: Show up for them. Show up. Show them mercy. Help them lift their eyes up.

There's something so much greater in Christ. In Christ alone is where we find peace, love, joy, and hope. Everything else that tangles us up on this earth, at the end of the day, is going to leave us wanting. We know Jesus is better.

Showing up doesn't mean you get involved in what they're doing. Not at all. We maintain that healthy fear of sin while connecting with people who need Jesus.

Jude is an intense book. These are two quick verses, but Jude is intentional and passionate as he calls us to fight for those who are lost, those who are doubting, those who are close to the edge, and those who are caught up in sin.

We all know those people. Let's continue to be a church that fights for those people in our lives.

That Amazon driver, Nema, could have kept driving. She had a busy life. She had things to do. She had packages to deliver. She could have driven right past that house. No one would have known. No one would have known.

But she didn't. She understood God had her there for a reason. She didn't wait for someone else to do something about it. She didn't wait for someone else to jump in and act. She knew God had her there for the moment, and she fought for those people.

Because of that, physically, they're alive.

Every day, we walk past people who, spiritually speaking, are in danger. Their souls are in danger.

Don't miss them. Don't assume someone else is going to handle it. Ask God to give you the courage to fight for the lost.

Would you pray with me this morning?

If we bow our heads, just let that be your simple prayer this morning: "God, help me fight for the lost. God, help me fight for the lost."

If you wrote down a name earlier, or if the Holy Spirit brought a name to mind for you, just make that your prayer: "God, help me fight for..." Fill in the blank. Say their name. "God, help me fight for this person. God, help me show them how much You love them. God, help me boldly introduce them to the love of Jesus."

There are people in your heart right now. Ask God to help you walk this out.

I know this too: It's possible that you might be one of those people. You might be someone in here who has doubted. You might be someone in here who doesn't know Jesus as Savior. You might be someone who's stuck in sin.

Let me just say that if that's you, there's a very good chance there are people in your life who are fighting for you. They love you enough and care about you enough to fight for you.

That might even be why you're here. Maybe they invited you today. Maybe they've been inviting you for a while to come. You're here now, and you know there is nothing better in your life than trusting in Jesus. He is the only One who will satisfy. He is the only One who can give you life and eternity with the Father.

If that's you, in just a minute, I want to encourage you: Don't leave here today without trusting in Jesus alone as your Savior and starting a new life as a child of God.

In just a minute, we're going to stand and sing one last song. We're going to have pastors and prayer partners down here at the front. We'd love to pray with you about what God is doing in your life.

If you've never trusted in Christ and you know people have been fighting for you, man, there is no greater celebration in their lives than to see you come and trust Christ as Savior.

Walk down and tell somebody, "I'm ready to trust Jesus. People have been fighting for me. It's time for me to surrender."

Maybe you want to come forward and pray over someone God has placed in your life. You want to pray specifically for that person, that God would do a neat thing in their life.

Or maybe there's something altogether different going on in your world, and you just want somebody here at the church to pray alongside you for that. Whatever it is, we're going to be down here. We'd love to pray with you.

Father, we love You so much. God, we thank You for Your Word, for the clarity of it, for the intensity and passion of it. God, I pray we live with that intensity and that passion. God, wherever You've got us, Lord, may we fight for the lost.

It's in Your name we pray. Amen.