

# Jude 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

## Analysis

**These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.** After quoting Enoch's prophecy, Jude returns to characterizing false teachers. "Murmurers" (Greek *gongystai*, γογγυσταί) means chronic complainers who grumble against God's providence—the term used for Israel's wilderness murmuring (Exodus 15-17, Numbers 11, 14). "Complainers" (Greek *mempsimoiroi*, μεμψίμοιροι) literally means "fault-finders with their lot," those dissatisfied with God's provision, always seeking something different or better.

"Walking after their own lusts" (Greek *kata tas epithymias heautōn poreuomenoi*, κατὰ τὰς ἐπιθυμίας ἑαυτῶν πορευόμενοι) indicates their life-direction follows personal desires rather than God's will. "Walking" denotes habitual conduct, settled pattern. "Lusts" (Greek *epithymias*) means strong desires, particularly sinful passions. Their theology serves their appetites; they twist Scripture to justify chosen behaviors rather than conforming to revealed truth.

"Their mouth speaketh great swelling words" (Greek *to stoma autōn lalei hyperonka*, τὸ στόμα αὐτῶν λαλεῖ ὑπέρογκα) means arrogant, inflated speech—grandiose claims exceeding truth. 2 Peter 2:18 uses identical language. They impress through rhetorical skill and confident assertions, not substantive truth. "Having men's persons in admiration because of advantage" (Greek *thaumazontes*

prosōpa ōpheleias charin, θαυμάζοντες πρόσωπα ὠφελείας χάριν) means flattering people for profit—showing favoritism to those who can benefit them, using manipulation for personal gain.

## Historical Context

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Murmuring characterized Israel's wilderness rebellion—constant complaining against Moses and God despite miraculous provision (Exodus 16:2-12, Numbers 14:2, 16:11). Such grumbling revealed unbelief and ingratitude. Paul warned Christians against following this pattern (1 Corinthians 10:10, Philippians 2:14). Jude's readers would immediately recognize the comparison: false teachers replicate Israel's rebellious attitude.

The Greco-Roman world valued rhetorical skill highly. Sophists made careers through impressive oratory, often prioritizing persuasive speech over truthful content. Early Christianity faced sophisticated orators who could sway audiences through eloquence regardless of doctrinal accuracy. Paul deliberately avoided such manipulation (1 Corinthians 2:1-5), but false teachers embraced it.

"Having men's persons in admiration" reflects the patronage system dominating first-century society. Teachers often depended on wealthy patrons for support, potentially compromising message to please sponsors. James condemned showing partiality to the rich (James 2:1-9). False teachers would flatter influential people, craft messages pleasing to donors, and manipulate for financial advantage—using ministry as business rather than service.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How can believers distinguish legitimate critique from the ungodly murmuring and complaining Jude describes?
2. What are contemporary examples of theology shaped by personal desires rather than biblical truth?
3. How should churches guard against showing favoritism to wealthy or influential members?

## Interlinear Text

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οὗτοί	εἰσιν	γογγυσταί,	μεμψίμοιροι	κατὰ	τὰς	ἐπιθυμίας
<b>These</b>	<b>are</b>	<b>murmurers</b>	<b>complainers</b>	<b>after</b>	G3588	<b>lusts</b>
G3778	G1526	G1113	G3202	G2596		G1939
αὐτῶν	πορευόμενοι	καὶ	τὸ	στόμα	αὐτῶν	λαλεῖ
<b>their</b>	<b>walking</b>	<b>and</b>	G3588	<b>mouth</b>	<b>their</b>	<b>speaketh</b>
G846	G4198	G2532		G4750	G846	G2980
ὑπέρογκα	θαυμάζοντες	πρόσωπα	ὠφελείας			
<b>great swelling</b>	<b>in admiration</b>	<b>words having men's persons</b>	<b>of advantage</b>			
G5246	G2296	G4383	G5622			
χάριν						
<b>because</b>						
G5484						

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Peter 2:18** (Word): For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

**2 Peter 2:10** (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

**Philippians 2:14** (Parallel theme): Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

**1 Corinthians 10:10** (Parallel theme): Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

**1 Timothy 6:5** (Parallel theme): Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

**2 Peter 3:3** (Kingdom): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

**1 Peter 4:2** (Parallel theme): That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

**1 Peter 2:11** (Parallel theme): Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

**Jude 1:18** (Parallel theme): How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

**Psalms 15:4** (Parallel theme): In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.