

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

LESSON #4

THERE IS SOMETHING IN A NAME

1 INTRODUCTION:

There have been many babies born here since Barbara and I moved here.

1. One thing I have noticed that we take very seriously what name we give them.
2. Most do not take a book of names as they are on the way to the hospital close their eyes and put a finger in a name and that is what we call our new baby.
3. Most give a great deal of thought to what you are going to name this little person.

I do not know any little boys named Judas, or any little girls named Jezebel, these are both biblical names.

But Judas has become a symbol for betrayal and Jezebel for wickedness.

So, one of the most stupid expressions that we hear is that there is nothing in a name.

This brings us to the third commandment.

If there is something in our names don't you think there is something in His?

So the Lord God says, "you shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND: TO HELP US APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS COMMAND.

1. We think names are important, but we do not do it to near the degree as the people in Biblical times.

They believed that a name should be designed to say something about that person and about what God had been doing for that person.

Examples: You might name your son, "God blessed us" or a daughter "She is faithful".

Or if times looked bad you might name your son "Icobod" - "The glory has departed".

But they gave a lot of thought because that name is to stand for something.

We have examples in the scriptures where the names were changed and every time it is significant.

Abram's name was changed to Abraham, which means "father of many" and he would be.

It is kind of strange to name a 90 year old man "the father of many" who does not have a single child but his name was changed because it stood for something important.

His grandson Jacob- which means "the chiseler" this fits.

He was coming back one day to meet his brother Esau and he meets a man dressed like an angel and he wrestled with the man and lost, and he says, what's your name?

And he answers Jacob, and the angel says not any more, your name is Israel.

Israel means "struggled with God" and that's what you have done.

Literally it means Prince.

And if you will notice that Jacobs character changed that night.

Jesus was walking along and meets a man named Simon who was named after one of his forefathers
Simeon one of Jacobs sons.

But Jesus said, "Tomorrow your name will be Peter - "Rock".

Jesus saw a quality in the disciple that he was going to develop.

Every time the Lord changed someone's name He does it because He wants to reveal something about
that person.

The greatest example is in Matt.1:21 READ.

Joseph was espoused to Mary, and finds out she is pregnant and is going to put her away privately.

But the Lord talked to him in a dream and said, "Do not put her away because she is conceived of the
Holy Spirit and she will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for it is he that shall save His
people from their sins. JESUS = SAVIOR.

Parents are supposed to give names to the children, but God said, Joseph you will call Him Jesus.
To name something is to recognize you have dominion over it.

God brought the animals before Adam to name them, and said "you are to have dominion over the
animals.

Later God gives man a woman and Adam named her because he was to have dominion over her.

But notice God named the man.

And when it came to His son God said "I will name Him because you will not have dominion over Him,
but He shall have Lordship over you."

When God gives us His names He does so because He wants to reveal something about Himself.

Yahweh - I Am Always have been, always will be Eternal, I Am.

**NOW TO MISUSE THAT NAME MEANS THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT
STOOD FOR SOMETHING OR YOU DID NOT CARE.**

1. Don't dishonor the name of God for it means something - it stands for faithfulness and eternity and
sovereignty.

And if you don't use it in the way God meant you have misused it.

God says, I will not hold you guiltless if you misuse my name.

One way we show God we love him is by our attitude toward His name.

HOW DO WE MISUSE THE NAME OF GOD? We will look at three ways.

1. PROFANITY: Not just cursing, it is a Latin word - PRO = "out of" FANIS = "Temple" out of the temple.

To profane it to take a holy thing out of it's holy context and put it where it doesn't belong. Examples:

Oh my G!- Oh G! - etc.

When you hit your finger with a hammer, your are mad at your neighbor, your neighbor's dog bites you,
and you profane by using God's name to express an unholy feeling.

Let me ask, what good did that do you? Did your finger feel better, or the dog bite heal faster?

One of the worst things about profanity is that it is so needless.

It is a habit that we can stop if we want to.

B. Using His name in a frivolous manner.

Some times we use his name in a context the we rob it of it's reverence.

Some ways we do this are:

"I think there is somebody up there that likes me".

"The man upstairs is listening".

"I can always turn to the big daddy in the sky".

In each of these statements we have secularized His name.

Did the Bible ever say that we had the right to give God names?

God gives us names in which we are to call Him. FATHER; ALMIGHTY, THE LORD OF HOSTS; ETC.

But should we call Him "Big Daddy in the sky?"

This is lowering Him to the level of man.

We use it frivolously when we use it as an oath in trivial matters.

We could use a little more awe toward the name of God."

C. HYPOCRISY:

To use his name to make it seem you are using it in a religious way but your goal is personal advancement of gain, you have misused His name.

Do business with me - I am a Christian.

Hire me - I am a Christian.

Forgery - you know what that is - it is where you use my name without my consent.

Illustration: How many times have you seen on TV a preacher say, "God has told me to tell you to send me \$100.00 and He will reward you.- that is forgery.

1. b. I have seen this in the church So the next time you say to someone, "God said for me to ask you for such and such." - You better be sure it is from God's word for this is the only way he talks to us today.

Sometimes the profanity in the church is worse than on the street.

Listen to what Christ said in Matt.7:21-23 READ.

You lie when your life does not match my word.

You use my name and fool a lot of people, but you don't know the value of my name.

THIS COMMAND IS MAKING TWO CHALLENGES:

It's a plea for integrity.

It is asking to be what we claim.

If we are going to wear His name, let's let it represent what it means.

STORY:

The emperor Alexander he had one particular soldier he was having problems with his men brought this man before him.

The emperor said, "What's your name?" The young man said, "Alexander"!

The emperor was taken back for a moment and said, "Young man what is your name?" And again he said "Alexander".

For the third time the emperor said, "Soldier what is your name?" The boy said, "Alexander"

The emperor said, "Well soldier change your name or your conduct.

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That's good advice for a Christian.

If you are going to wear the holy name then wear it and make it stand for what it means or change your name.

For He will not hold guiltless those who misuse his name, He will call it filthiness.

CONCLUSION:

1. Rom.10:13 READ.
 - a. When you call on His name you are saying that God is faithful, Sovereign, Eternal, and He is a God who will keep His promises.
2. B. There is a moral condition to calling on His name.
 - a. Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus, "Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins calling on the name of the Lord."
 - b. This is how we are saved, that is how you consummate the power of the name.
 - c. Then you must live faithful to not take His name in vain.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN WASHED AND YOUR ARE STILL DIRTY WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?