



+ YOU

Winter 2024
A Name Like No Other

Sermon Title: He Is

To be used with Session 1: The Importance of God's Name

Scripture: John 8:48-59

Connection with the Study: To complement the study “The Importance of God’s Name,” this sermon will emphasize Jesus as God, who bears the name God shared with Moses, *I Am*. Additionally, it will help listeners understand the power behind that name and understand how it can be divisive. Although it divides, it should bring comfort to those who have a true relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Finally, this sermon will encourage believers to consider how they, or those close to them, sometimes utilize God’s name flippantly. Although this is not a primary goal, the sermon provides some “food for thought” regarding the improper usage of God’s name.

Introduction: What’s in a name? Some names are chosen for babies because they have trivial meanings or the parents like the sound of the names. Other names have deep meanings, possibly because they reflect respect of a parent, grandparent, a person from the Bible, or a close friend. These individuals’ names honor those after whom they are named. Perhaps your name has a deep meaning. Have you given much thought to it?

Jesus not only shares the name of God, but He also shares the very essence of God. He is God. Those who clung to their religious power when Jesus was on earth did not appreciate His claims of deity. They did their best to disprove and destroy Him. Facts, however, are facts. Jesus is God’s Son, He shares a close relationship with His Father, and, being God, Himself, bears His Father’s name.

Jesus is God’s Son (John 8:48-51)

The Jews had questioned Jesus about His authority and identity. He had called them out about their true relationship with Yahweh, whom they claimed as their Father. He had declared Himself not to be of this world and that they would die in their sins unless they believed in Him. Eventually, they declared Abraham as their father and Jesus refuted that claim, revealing their father as the devil. They insulted Him by calling Him a demon-possessed Samaritan.

Jesus took the high road. Instead of insulting them, He revealed that He was glorifying the Father instead of Himself, and declared that if anyone kept His Word they would live eternally.

As we are accused by the lost, it is important to identify with the Father and take the high road as well. This passage is confrontational, but Jesus spoke the truth to His accusers, even pointing them toward the Word as a source of truth. Jesus identified Himself as God’s Son. We must take care to know the Word and live the Word before others.

Jesus shares a close relationship with His Father (John 8:52-56)

The verbal assault heated up. The Jews, having identified themselves as children of Abraham, declared Abraham to have kept God's Word, yet he died. In their anger, thinking they had entrapped Jesus by His own words, they also referenced the prophets, who kept God's Word and died, as well. They painted a picture of what they thought was Jesus's arrogance in declaring Himself greater than all these who had kept God's Word and died anyway.

Jesus told the leaders He was in a true relationship with the Father. This relationship far exceeded any ritualistic worship or nationalistic connection to the idea of kinship with God. Jesus chose not to lift Himself up, explaining that His glory was only from the Father. Furthermore, He declared that Abraham, their stated father, rejoiced in seeing His day come.

Believers must know they have a relationship with God the Father by grace through faith in Jesus. The Jews depended on tradition, religion, and rules for their salvation. Only a true relationship with Jesus provides salvation.

Jesus is God and bears His name: I Am (John 8:57-59)

As the Jews became more and more angry, they argued Jesus was too young to have personal knowledge of Abraham. If He were only human, they would have been correct. Jesus, however, is God. He is the second person of the Trinity. He is fully God and fully man.

Jesus's answer: I was around before Abraham existed. I AM. He called Himself by the most exclusive and powerful name in the universe. He declared Himself to be God. This was too much for the Jews. They sought to kill him.

God's name is beyond compare. So many take the names of God we use for granted. Although we never say, "I AM," to reference God, it is a reference to the Creator of all, the Sovereign King of the universe.

Conclusion: People in our time have forgotten the power of God's name. The very God who spoke creation into existence is the One to whom we reference when we speak about Him in any way. As you go through the week, contemplate the names of God and the name of Jesus. Relish the truth that the mightiest One in the universe loves you, and if you know Him, He abides in a deep relationship with you, giving you all you are, all you have, and for all eternity.

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