



Sermon Series: A Name Like No Other

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

Sermon Title Possibilities: A Divine First Impression

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-6; 9-15

Connection with Unit Theme: To compliment the Bible study “A Name Like No Other,” this sermon will examine the story of God introducing Himself to Moses at the burning bush. As we will discover, Moses was not yet aware of who God was, let alone God's name. As this story will show us, God makes it clear to Moses that He wasn't just any voice or any power, but He was indeed a power like no other. Not only that, but He has a name like no other, which places Him head and shoulders above any and everything else.

Introduction: One thing that we are taught growing up is the importance of making a good first impression. We often hear this in the context of job interviews, romantic connections, or even basic interactions that we share with people from day to day. How we talk, how we are dressed, whether or not we use good eye contact, the types of manners we use, and so much more go a long way in creating in other people's minds a perspective or impression of us. The point is that how we show up is of paramount importance, as most people will make determinations about us within the first few moments of being in our presence. While some people misread or misunderstand us, the reality is that it matters how we show up. We ought to show up as our authentic selves, so that people don't get the wrong idea about us. Many people have inaccurate perspectives about us that stem from a bad first impression. As we will discover in today's text, nobody made a better first impression than The Lord.

1. We Are Known by God (Exodus 3:1-6).

Exodus 3 finds Moses serving as a Shepherd. Most of us know Moses as one of the most prolific biblical leaders to ever live. Before he began to lead, however, God called him in to the ministry, and set him apart for a very specific purpose. Prior to this text, there is no evidence to suggest that Moses had any knowledge of God, so this was not only their first meeting, but the first time Moses even hears of this God. Not only that, but while Moses knew nothing about God yet, God makes it abundantly clear that He knows everything about Moses. Notice how God introduces Himself in verse 6, “*I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...*” As one that was not raised by his biological family, Moses did not know any of his ancestor's names until God spoke to him in this text. Can you imagine meeting someone for the first time and they know your

whole life story before ever speaking to you? Moses only knew himself as Moses, the man raised in the house of Pharaoh, but this initial conversation with God gave Moses a glimpse into his true identity. So, in a real sense, Moses was being introduced to God, while being reintroduced to himself.

2. We Can Trust God (Exodus 3:9-12).

Most people don't trust easily, if at all. And if they do, it takes quite a while to earn that trust or for people to let their guards down. Yet in this first interaction between God and Moses, God waste no time entrusting a major assignment to Moses and expecting Moses to not only trust Him but obey Him. As we see with Moses, God knew him since before he was in his mother's womb, and yet Moses was just now learning who God was. In a likewise manner, none of us are born knowing who God is. He makes Himself known to us as we grow, but as we discover things about Him, He already knows everything there is to know about us. And He likewise expects us to trust and obey Him. That's why the hymn-writer penned those timeless words, "trust and obey. For there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey." We talk often about the importance of us trusting God, but let's reverse the concept for a moment and ask ourselves, can God trust us? Can God count on us? Can God depend on us? As we see in the text, God called Moses in part because He trusted Moses, as evidenced by the magnitude of the assignment. And there are some major assignments that God only gives to those who He trusts. The question is, are we one of those?

3. We Can Call on the Name of God (Exodus 3:13-15).

By this point, Moses' questions and excuses are in full swing. As the remainder of this chapter coupled with the entirety of the next chapter will show us, Moses had plenty more questions, excuses, and objections. However, God was prepared for every single thing that Moses had to say. In verse 13, Moses inquires of God that if he was to do as he's been told and liberate the Israelites, what should he tell them if they ask who sent him? What name should he give? The Lord says, "*I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you*" (v.14). God then goes on to once again name the ancestors who also worshipped and served Him, and concluded in verse 15 with the declaration that, "*This is my name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation.*" In other words, the same way your ancestors worshipped Me, and the same way you will worship Me, so too will future generations when they hear of Me and My name. We represent one of those future generations, and the same power His name carried back then, it carries now

Conclusion: God has an amazing reputation. We read about Him in scripture, hear about Him in songs, and hear testimonies from those who know Him. However, there's nothing like encountering God for ourselves. There's nothing like knowing Him for ourselves. Its one thing to know of God, but it is totally different when we have our own experience with God. He is no

less God now than He was then. Healer back then, healer right now. Deliverer back then, deliverer right now. Healer back then, healer right now. Provider back then, provider right now.

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