

Friday, February 19, 2016

**Misuse**

Exodus 19-20

*You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.*  
Exodus 20:7

As I was growing up, I learned that this command meant not to use God's name in a derogatory way. In other words, to fashion a swearword out of it (even if it is only in initials). But there is much, much more to this command. God's name is all that He represents and stands for. The Israelites are God's chosen people. As such, they bear His name. If they do not keep themselves pure, then they misuse the name and the name is given to them in vain—it is a waste or worse. God speaks very clearly in Malachi chapter 1 of how He expects His name to be proclaimed by His people. "It is you, O priests, who have shown contempt for my name" He says. They will not be held guiltless for that. The LORD's name is to be great because His people do not misuse it. I must remember this. I must proclaim His magnificence at all times with my thoughts, words, and actions. I must not misuse the name that has been entrusted to me. I bear the name of Jesus. When He saved me, I became a follower of Christ. I am a Christian! I do not want anyone to think less of Jesus because of me. I do not want to spend my time on foolish things that misappropriate the trust I have been given. I do not want to misuse His name.

*Dear LORD, if I am honest, I have misused Your name plenty of times. I repent. Please LORD forgive me and lead me to use Your name on my life for Your glory only! Amen*

February 15-20, 2016

Saturday, February 20, 2016

**Worship**

Exodus 21-22

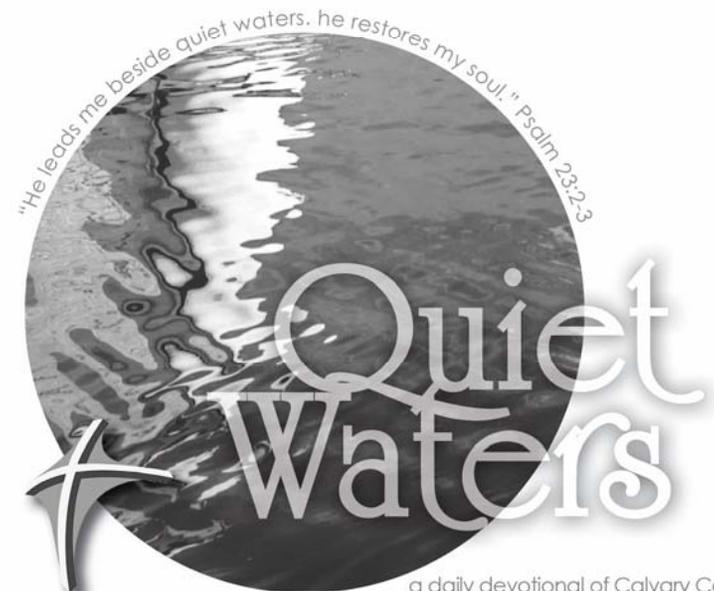
*You are to be my holy people.*

Exodus 22:31

God is building a nation. A holy nation. It started with the promise to Abram, and continued as He took His people to Egypt so that they could grow into a great number under the protection of the world's great power. But when the time came for them to be released to worship, that power would not let go willingly. Now this great number of people needs to get to the land that has been given and they need laws to live by. Then they will be the nation God has determined. In these chapters, I see the giving of that law, which will allow them to be the holy nation of God. They must have laws that are very explicit. They have been in a culture that did not help them know God. They were moving into a country that was definitely not pursuing the one, true God. God would set them apart to be a holy nation by giving them a list of laws by which they could govern themselves, but it was the heart that would make them a holy people. Obedience flows from a motive of love. I must remember that all the LORD has shown me has been shown so that I can be a holy person—set aside for Him and for His purpose!

*God, thank You for giving boundaries to Your people across the ages so that we can know what is required from our Holy God. Help me live as a holy person for You and let me bring that heart into my worship this weekend. Amen*

*Pastor Chuck*  
Pastor Chuck Cervenka



a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, February 15, 2016

**Hot with anger**

Exodus 11-12

*"All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, 'Go, you and all the people who follow you!' After that I will leave." Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh.*

Exodus 11:8

Moses is very angry. Untold numbers of people and livestock are going to die because of the arrogance and hard-heartedness of one man. This would be a needless slaughter. Moses understood what it meant to be in awe of God. He is learning it more each day. While God will reveal His glory through what is happening, that does not make Pharaoh any less culpable. He is the one who made the decision for these people to die. Moses was white hot with anger. He went and shared the beauty of the Passover for God's chosen people. To this day, observation of the Passover reminds everyone (who cares to know) of the power of God and His keeping of His promise to His people. It looked forward to the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. The plagues were by God's design and necessary for Him to show His power and sovereignty. God had been showing His power to Pharaoh and yet he refused to repent. Moses was hot with anger that the pride of one man would bring the death of so many. Do I get hot with anger at the needless deaths of so many who have never heard the truth of the gospel?

*Dear LORD, please give me a heart that knows You so well that I burn with anger at the fact that so many people will never know You or Your truth. Use me to proclaim! Amen*

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

**Be still**

Exodus 13-14

*The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.*

Exodus 14:14

I'm not so sure I could have been still. Really. When I think about it? An exposed group of men, women, children, and animals. All who had spent the last 430 years in captivity, now being set free, only to feel trapped. They had followed the LORD into a trap. All they could think about was that they were going to die. Nothing had changed. Die here—die in Egypt. What's the difference? I get it. I can imagine I would feel the same. I wonder how many times I have? In my anxiousness and hopelessness I fail to see that God is bigger. It could very well be that the apparent tragedy that has come into my life is really Him allowing a place for His glory to be seen—if I can be still. If I can stop fixating and ruminating and allowing my circumstance to overwhelm my thoughts, I can sit quietly and watch Him work. "Why are you crying out?" God asks Moses. Just walk through the sea! I can imagine Moses thinking to himself, "Of course! So foolish of me to have missed that." God was teaching His people that He is all powerful and His mighty hand will accomplish what He has determined. In teaching them, He is teaching me. I can focus quietly on Him instead of noisily on my struggle.

*Dear Lord, help me be still before You and allow You to go ahead of me so that You can show Your glory. Use my situation—whatever and whenever You need—to show Your power to all who care to see. Amen.*

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

**Opposed**

Exodus 15-16

*"In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like fire."*

Exodus 16:6

In this amazing song of celebration of the LORD's deliverance, I love the line that declares that God was defeating the Egyptians because they were opposed to Him. It would have been entirely plausible for them to rejoice that God had defeated their enemies, but they were allowed to see what had truly happened. He shattered the enemy. It is so important that I see that there is an anger that God has toward sin. It is real and it is a burning anger. Only His grace allows me to move out from under the destruction that comes to those who are opposed to God. Jesus has averted that wrath for me by His death that appeased the wrath, which was surely what I deserved. As I continue to read the account of the Israelites, I can't help but notice that it is His grace that keeps them from being consumed. So many times they appear to be opposition to Him as well, yet He is patient.

Are there things in my life that place me in opposition to God? I celebrate it when He comes and fights for me and defeats those who are opposed to Him when I also feel they are opposed to me. But what about when it is something in me that needs to be defeated? Am I ready to celebrate that as well?

*O my Lord, how often I find my actions in opposition to You even when my heart longs to be right in step with You. Battle the things in my life that are opposed to You! Amen.*

Thursday, February 18, 2016

**Tired**

Exodus 17-18

*When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side and one on the other—so that his hands remained steady until sunset.*

Exodus 17:12

Moses in so many ways seems larger than life. He is entrusted with one of the greatest tasks of all times. In a day and age without technology to communicate, he is tasked with keeping as many as two million people all united. And that has to happen as he leads these people on a walking journey through enemy land. He is certain of the presence of the LORD. He spent a lot of time with the LORD. One of the most important things I can learn from Moses. A new enemy attacks them. God has defeated Egypt. He will now defeat the Amalekites. But this time, Moses needs help. His arms have grown tired and two men come alongside. Apparently, Moses is not too proud to take the help and the men are more than willing to offer. Together they are able to do what is needed for Joshua to fight the battle and overcome the enemy. As I do battle for the LORD, I must know when I need help and I must know when I am tired. There is too much at stake. There are others who are fighting and we each need to be doing our part.

*Dear LORD, please help me know when I am too tired to fight alone. Help me remember that if I need help, You know and You will provide that help as I fight for You. Continue to bring those people into my life so that we can fight together for You. Amen.*