

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Exodus 20:7

May 17, 2009 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

- A. Do you know what your name means?
 - 1. Cleve-short for Cleveland-Eng for "hilly land".
 - 2. Tim-short for Timothy-Eng for Greek "Timotheous" meaning "honoring God" or "one who honors God".
 - 3. Bill-short for William-Eng for German "Wilhelm" meaning "helmet" or protection".
 - 4. Larry-short for Laurence-Eng for city in Italy (Laurentum) means "laurel" (as in laurel wreath for winners!). Comes from 3rd century deacon, martyr and Saint from Rome.
- B. Our names are important for us. We want people to say and spell them right.
- C. God's name is important to him too.
 - 1. Where did God's name come from? He gave it to himself.
 - 2. His name was so important to him that he gave us a commandment in order to give his name the respect it deserves.
 - 3. Let's consider this 3rd commandment today.

I. WHY IS GOD'S NAME IMPORTANT?

- A. Today we choose our children's name because we like the way it sounds, to honor a relative, or because it rhymes.
- B. In the past, though, names were give for other reasons.
 - 1. Sometimes names reflected an observable character trait. For example....
 - Jacob means "heel catcher" , what he did when born.
 - Esau means "red hair", describing his appearance.
 - Samuel means "asked of God", his mother asked God for him.
 - 2. Sometimes names were changed to reflect a change in character. For example...
 - Abram means father, while Abraham means father of a multitude, which reflects God's promise to him.
 - Sarai means princess, while Sarah means laughter, which is what she did when the angel said she would become a mother at 90.
- C. God's name reflects his character too.
 - 1. The Hebrew word "Yahweh" means "holiness".
 - Matt 6:9**
 - ⁹ "This, then, is how you should pray:**
 - ""Our Father in heaven,**
 - hallowed be your name,**
 - 2. Biblical Jews refused to say the name out loud
 - 3. Our English translation is "Jehovah".

II. HOW IS GOD'S NAME PROFANED?

- A. The word "vain" means to make something empty or void of content or meaning.
- B. How is God's name profaned?
 - 1. Profanity or curse words is the obvious way.
 - a. In 1939 Clark Gable rocked the world when he used the word "damn" in the movie "Gone With The Wind".
 - b. Today, it would be a rare Disney movie that didn't have a word or two of profanity.
 - c. Colonel Sanders said when he became a Christian he lost half of his vocabulary.

2. A not so obvious way to profane God's name is with some of the phrases we hear everyday.
 - "Oh my God!"
 - "So help me God"
 - "With God as my witness"
 - "Lordy, Lordy, Lordy"
 - "Jesus Christ!"
3. Still another way is to use "In Jesus' Name" as a magical incantation. at the end of our prayers. It means to pray as Jesus would pray, not give me everything I ask for.

CONCLUSION

- A. We like to hear someone say our name, unless it was when the teacher called on us in class.
- B. God likes for us to say his name too, so don't stop saying it.
- C. However, lets be sure we don't use his name in vain or profanely.