

THE TEN

COMMANDMENTS

THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 September 3, 2023

"Keeping Promises, Hallowing God's Name"

Exodus 20:7, Leviticus 19:12, Matthew 5:33-37

I. Introduction/Review

- A. Our _____ go hand in hand with our integrity and character.
- B. The 3rd commandment: Do not _____ the name of Yahweh your God.
- C. In the ancient world, when people made promises or were seeking to emphasize that they were telling the truth, they would _____ by the name of their god.

II. Misusing God's Name (Violating the 3rd Commandment)

- A. We misuse God's name when we invoke God's name for a _____ you do not intend to keep.
- B. We misuse God's name when we speak about him or for him in ways that are _____ with his character.
- C. We misuse God's name when we use God's name in _____.

III. Application

- A. We are called to _____ God's name and not treat it as if it were not significant.
- B. The point of the _____ commandment was to honor God, love your neighbor and live as a person of integrity no matter what the cost.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 4-9, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

Our personal names are important. They go hand in hand with our integrity and character. No one wants someone to steal their identity and tarnish their reputation. God feels the same way about his name. So the 3rd commandment says “Do not misuse the name of Yahweh your God.” Some of us were taught that this commandment is about profanity. But the primary lesson this commandment was teaching was about promise keeping and truth telling.

Monday: Psalm 9:7-11, 24:7-10

At Abraham Lincoln’s funeral, Methodist Episcopal bishop Matthew Simpson said, “To a minister who said he hoped the Lord was on our side, [Lincoln] replied that it gave him no concern whether the Lord was on our side or not.... ‘But God is my witness that it is my constant anxiety and prayer that both myself and this nation should be on the Lord’s side.’” How does Yahweh’s character make it worthwhile to be sure that you are “on the Lord’s side”?

Tuesday: Leviticus 19:12, Deuteronomy 23:21-23

Jesus echoed Deuteronomy 23:22 when he said, “I say to you that you must not pledge at all. Let your yes mean yes, and your no mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one” (Matthew 5:34, 37 - more about this in Thursday’s devotional). Have you ever, intentionally or by mistake, over-promised and under-delivered? In what ways can you practice greater honesty in your dealings with others and with yourself?

Wednesday: Proverbs 18:10, Jeremiah 7:1-7

“Yahweh, the name of God in the OT, reveals a timeless being who is stable and also able to adapt - a powerful message to our ancestors-in-the-faith and to the faithful today. The Lord God has been for all time and will continue to be for all time, and the Lord God meets and provides for humanity in the moment.”* In what ways does trusting that your God has those qualities give you confidence to “find refuge” in God, particularly at life’s difficult times?

Thursday: Matthew 5:33-37, Matthew 7:21-23

Honesty begins with being honest with yourself and God (often a trusted small group, counselor, or accountability partner can help us.) How well do you understand the inner or outer forces that most often tempt you to “shade” your words or promises to other people, especially those you care deeply about? How easy or hard is it for you to be honest with yourself and God?

Friday: John 8:58, John 10:7, 9, 11

In John 8:58, Jesus claims to be God. The more we study, the more we realize that Jesus used words carefully. In Mark, we read, “The high priest asked, ‘Are you the Christ, the Son of the blessed one?’ Jesus said, ‘I am.’” (Mark 14:61-62) Reflect on the magnitude of the claim Jesus made in those various settings. That’s not the sort of thing a sane moral teacher who knows he’s just human says. Do you believe Jesus’ claim? Why or why not?

MOVING FORWARD

We misuse God’s name when we:

- 1) invoke it for a promise we don’t intend to keep,
- 2) speak about him or for him in ways not consistent with his character, and
- 3) use God’s name in profanity.

Jesus calls us to not just avoid doing what is prohibited by the 3rd commandment, but to positively “hallow” God’s name – not only in our words but also in our actions.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) names, B) misuse, C) swear. IIA) promise, B) inconsistent. IIC) profanity. IIIA) hallow, B) third.

* Nancy L. deClaissé-Walford, sidebar note “Name as Identity” in The CEB Study Bible. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, p. 1032 OT.