

Sun., Feb. 2

2020 Winter Message Series: Set Free to Live Free: The 10 Commandments

Love God, Love Others

Message: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain

Scriptures: Exodus 3:13-15, 20:1-7, Philippians 2:5-11

Memory Verse: "Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses His name that way." -Exodus 20:7

Blurb: What's in a name? Our names come from our parents. Either they chose it because they liked the name or it had special meaning, perhaps in the family. In the Bible, names describe the person, and using a name shows familiarity and connection. This Sunday we look at the 3rd of the 10 Commandments, where God forbids us to use His name without meaning. Why? Because His name shows familiarity and connection. We'll discover how using God's name with meaning brings meaning to our lives!

Opening Song: -Sanctify

Welcome: -David

Super Bowl Sunday

Memory Verse: -David

"Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses His name that way." -Exodus 20:7

Worship Music Set: -Sanctify

Worship Prayer -Andrew

Lemuel the Lion -Andrew using a video

Bumper:

Message: 10 Commandments: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain

PP#1: 10 Commandments: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain

"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy." -Matthew 6:9

The 10 Commandments: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, in Matthew 6:9 He said, "Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy."

PP#2: Screen shot of the web page, with the URL listed below: <https://www.behindthename.com/>

Do you know the meaning of your name? If you don't you can look it up on this website. My name is David, and it's a name from the Bible. It means "beloved." On this website it also lists that my name can mean "uncle." So, to my nieces and nephews, I'm Uncle Uncle! Often names were descriptions. Think Taylor, or Baker, or beloved.

PP#3: Meaning of names in the Bible:

Adam: Dirt	Eve: Living
Noah: Rest	Abraham: Father of many
Isaac: Laughter	Moses: Drew out
Joshua: God saves	Ruth: Friend
David: Beloved	Daniel: God is my judge
Isaiah: Salvation of God	Joseph: Increase
Mary: Rebellion	Jesus: God saves
Peter: Rock	Dorothy: Gift from God

Names also carry meaning in the Bible. Adam means "dirt" describing how he was made. Moses means "draw out" as he was drawn out the Nile River. David means "beloved," as he was God's friend. And Peter means "rock," the name Jesus gave to Simon to show his new identity.

The name "Jesus" is the English pronunciation of the Greek name Ἰησοῦς. Ἰησοῦς is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Yeshua*, which we pronounce in English as Joshua. So, in Hebrew, Jesus and Joshua are the same name: Yeshua. Both mean "God saves." Joshua leads the people into the Promised Land, Jesus leads the people into the Promised Land of heaven.

PP#4: Genesis 32:26-29 (CEB)

26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!"

But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

27 "What is your name?" the man asked.

He replied, "Jacob."

28 "Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won."

29 "Please tell me your name," Jacob said.

"Why do you want to know my name?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.

Knowing someone's name means you know something about them. Being able to call them by name gives you an ability to command them or call on them to ask them to do things. When Jacob wrestled with God in the form of a man at Penuel, both God and Jacob asked for each other's name, although God refuses to give His. God, however, changes Jacob's name to Israel, which means, "struggles with God." Jacob, and all his descendants, are described from then on as people who struggle to stay in right relationship with God.

PP#5: Exodus 3:13-16 (CEB)

13 But Moses said to God, "If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they are going to ask me, 'What's this God's name?' What am I supposed to say to them?"

14 God said to Moses, “I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, ‘I Am has sent me to you.’” 15 God continued, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.

Well, 500 years later, Moses is a shepherd in the desert. At the foot of Mount Sinai, God appears to him in the form of a burning bush. God tells Moses to go into Egypt and to lead the people out of slavery and back to that mountain where God will renew His covenant with them and give them the laws for abundant life. Moses, of course, has some history back in Egypt, and he knows he won’t be favorably received by either the Egyptians or Israelites. So, Exodus 3:13, “Moses said to God, ‘If I now come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ they are going to ask me, ‘What’s this God’s name?’ What am I supposed to say to them?’”

Moses is asking, by whose authority should they follow me? His own authority won’t work. They will need to know who God is and if they can trust Him. So, in that amazing verse 14, God tells Moses God’s proper name. This is God’s name! “God said to Moses, ‘I Am Who I Am. So say to the Israelites, ‘I Am has sent me to you.’” God continued, ‘Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your ancestors, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever; this is how all generations will remember me.”

This was an amazing gift! God gave the people His name. God came down to them, became accessible to them, gave them the gift of calling on Him. They could now get His attention, come to Him on a first name basis. All future generations now will know God this way.

PP#6: God’s name: Yahweh (I Am!)

English Bibles: Yahweh is translated as “LORD” (small caps)

In human voice, we pronounce this name as “Yah-Weh.” That is the proper name of our God, Yehweh. Say it with me, “Yahweh.” God gave His name on purpose. He gave it for us to use.

By the way, did you know that in your Bibles, when you see the word “Lord” printed in all capitals, it is Yehweh in the Hebrew. It’s the way the King James first translated Yehweh.

God’s name is *being*. God’s name is Life! It’s existence. It’s reality. God is the Giver of life, the Creator of life, and is Himself Life! Tell the people Life has sent you. Life is freeing you from slavery. Life is calling you to the mountain. Life will give you laws to live by. Life has a plan for you, a future for you. Follow Life! Choose Life! Church: are you yearning for full and true life? Life Himself has come to you and offers to lead you into abundant life, too!

Take your message sheet and write along the top: “God’s way is my best life.” We’re doing this each week to remember that the laws God gives are the way of life! Who has the better plan for your life: You who knows so much (not!) or the Author of Life Himself?

PP#7: Jesus is The Great I Am! (John 8:56-69)

Jesus said, “56 Your father Abraham rejoiced as he looked forward to my coming. He saw it and was glad.”

57 The people said, “You aren’t even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, before Abraham was, I am!” 59 At that point they picked up stones to throw at him. But Jesus was hidden from them and left the Temple.

Detour, but I want you to see the connection between Yehweh and Jesus. In John 8, Jesus was sparring with Jews who were claiming that because they were children of Abraham, they were right with God. Yet Jesus told them that their ancestry didn't make them right with God. Only accepting Him and loving Him puts them right with God. Then, Jesus makes this crazy claim, that the Jews immediately understood. Jesus said that He was before Abraham, and that Abraham pointed to Jesus' coming. In John 8:58 Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham *was*, I AM!" Jesus invoked the holy name of God as His own! He is the Great I AM! And the people got it. They didn't accept it, but they got His point. They picked up rocks to stone Him for blasphemy. Jesus had just claimed God's name as His!

PP#8: The 10 Commandments

1. Life's/God's way is my best life.

"Then God spoke all these words," -Exodus 20:1

2. Set Free to Live Free

" . . . 2 I am the LORD [Yehweh] your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." -Exodus 20:2

Well, 17 chapters after the burning bush, Moses leads the people back to the mountain. Exodus 20, verse 1, "Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD [Yehweh] your God who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." Life brought you here to give you the path for life. I have demonstrated that I love you and care for you. So, here is the plan for your best life: here is how my people can live well. Listening? Here they are:

PP#9: Exodus 20:3-7

3 "You must have no other gods before [besides] me.

4 "Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. 5 Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. 6 But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Number 1: Verse 3, "You must have no other gods before me.

Number 2: "Do not make an idol for yourself—no form whatsoever—of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. 5 Do not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the Lord your God, am a passionate God. I punish children for their parents' sins even to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me. 6 But I am loyal and gracious to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments."

PP#10: Exodus 20:3-7

7 Do not use name of the LORD [Yehweh] your God as if it were of no significance; the LORD [Yehweh] won't forgive anyone who uses His name that way.

Number 3: Verse 7 "Do not use name of the LORD [Yehweh] your God [in vain,] as if it were of no significance; the LORD [Yehweh] won't forgive anyone who uses His name that way."

Wow, did you hear that? No forgiveness for abusers of Yehweh's name. Why? Because those that do aren't taking God seriously. And if you don't take God seriously, you can't be in a forgiven relationship with Him.

But notice that in the 10 Commandments, God is again giving His proper, first name. He gave His name to Moses to share with the people, and now that He has brought them here to the mountain to make His solemn covenant of life with them, God again gives them His name.

Remember, that's no small gift. This God, who soundly defeated the strongest power on earth—the strongest human power, backed by the strongest demonic powers (the plagues were a physical and a spiritual show-down between God and the demonic forces represented in the false gods of Egypt)—AND God controlling life and death, AND controlling the forces of nature, this God, who is all-powerful, all-supreme, all glorious, *this* God gives the people His direct line, His personal number. Call me any time. I'm always and instantly available. Call me by name.

God chooses them, makes them His own, loves them, fights for them, protects them, gives them the path of life. He binds Himself to them in covenant, commits to them, and puts them on a first-name basis with Him.

Oh, people! You have been given the greatest of gifts! When you speak God's name, you have the full attention of your Creator, your Savior, the God of the universe, the mightiest of all realities.

When you go talk to the principle to discuss your poor grade and what it will do to your ability to graduate, and that principle has the power to decide your fate, you use his name carefully! When your boss calls you in to discuss your last project and you know your future employment is at stake, you speak her name with honor! When the Lord God most High gives you His name, Church, speak it *only and always* reverently!

PP#11: *Images of cell phones with texts that include: “OMG,” “G*d d*mn you,” “Good L*rd,” and “J*sus H. Chr*st.”*

Why is it, do you think, that it is only the LORD's name that is so abused? You don't hear, “O my Buddha!” “Harry Krishna damn you.” People don't read bad news and exclaim, “Good Allah I can't believe it!” People don't stub their toe and swear “The Prophet Mohammad!”

Why? Because cursing is using something powerful badly. Our culture really doesn't think through this, but the reason that we don't use names of other gods is because their names don't have any power. If I'm mad at you and say, “Vishnu damn you!” you would just chuckle at me. No big deal. But if I say, “The Lord God Almighty, Creator of all things, damn you!” now you're worried. I've called upon a real power.

And it's a spiritual thing, too. Satan has a vested interest in emptying the power from God's name. Satan is working in our culture to undo the significance of this amazing gift that God has given His people. The Bible says that the very name of God, the very name of Jesus, spoken with significance, is the mightiest power against evil. In Mark 16:17, Jesus says, “And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons.”

If you ever feel you are in a place where you fear the demonic is lurking and evil is around, simply speak out loud the name of Jesus. Demons cannot abide it. At His name, they must flee.

This is why we end all of our prayers with, “In Jesus' name I pray.” God's name is powerful! This week, when you pray, I want you to start each prayer by invoking the proper name of God. Rather than saying “Dear God,” I want you to pray, “Dear Yehweh.” And end every prayer, “In Jesus' name I pray.” Will you try to do that? We need to reclaim the rightful name of God!

PP#12: The 10 Commandments:

- #1: Right God
- #2: Right Worship
- #3: Right Worship Language

Now, I know we normally treat this commandment as a simple rule. Don't say God's name in vain. When we slip, we apologize, "Oops, sorry! I mean *gosh* damn it." "O my *goodness*." And if this is helpful for you, do it. But God's goal here is not to forbid your mouth from saying certain words at certain times. God's desire is for you to have access to the full presence of God's name in a way that brings life to you. That means living with the consistent awareness and ongoing respectfulness of a life covenanted with the Lord God Almighty. It's about using God's name rightly. It is not life-giving to treat your relationship with God flippantly. It is not life-giving to remove the holiness from how you think about God.

God's name is holy. God's name is special. It means you know something about Him. It means you can call upon Him. Not to manipulate Him, but so He can manipulate you. He has put you and Him on a first name basis. Always, each and every time, only use God's name respectfully. Each time you use it—Yehweh, or Jesus, or God—you grab the full attention of the Lord God Almighty. Do not trifle this privilege. It is your connection to salvation. Romans 10:13, "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

PP#13: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain
False Promises (Matthew 5:33-35)

The Bible gives some descriptions of how NOT to use the Lord's name. One is under false promises. Don't call on God to make an oath or promise. "I swear to God I will..." No. Let your own word mean what you say. If you intend something, follow through. Don't drag God's name into it.

PP#14: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain
False Promises (Matthew 5:33-35)
False Prophecies (Jeremiah 14:14)

Secondly, don't say, "God says..." Rarely does God ever tell people to say something to someone else, especially a word of correction. The Holy Spirit does that inwardly, in our hearts. Also be very careful when you sense God telling you exactly what you want to hear. Church, we do this all the time! The Bible says beware false prophets, people who claim to speak in the Lord's name. Yes, it can be true. But it is far more rare than all the people who claim to speak for God.

PP#15: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain
False Promises (Matthew 5:33-35)
False Prophecies (Jeremiah 14:14)
False Pretenses (Matthew 7:21-23)

The Bible says that God does not know all those who call "Lord, Lord." God will say, "I never knew you." Beware those voices that sound like God's. Check...ALWAYS...check it with the Scriptures. God's word never violates Scripture, no matter how much you want it to be God's voice.

PP#16: Set Free to Not Take the Name of the Lord in Vain

False Promises (Matthew 5:33-35)

False Prophecies (Jeremiah 14:14)

False Pretenses (Matthew 7:21-23)

False Platitudes (Leviticus 9:12)

And lastly, False Platitudes. This is using God's name too often. Watch your prayers. Do you use God's name as a filler? Don't go around rotely saying "Thank you Jesus!" Every time you say God's name, bring Him fully your attention.

PP#17: Philippians 2:9-11 (CEB)

9 Therefore, God highly honored Him and gave Him a name above all names, 10 so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

So, the best way to not empty God's name of value is to use it well. One way you can do that is to intentionally call to mind the right context each time you use the name Jesus. Like, use Philippians 2. We have this amazing hymn that says that because Jesus died for our sins and rose again, God honored Jesus by giving Him a name that is above all names. And whenever His name is spoken, whether by you, or me, or by others on earth, or by those in heaven, or those in hell, all bow down. Every knee will bow and every tongue confess. Every time! This Jesus has the most amazing, powerful, holy, and honored of all names. Each time you speak the name of Jesus, make a point in your heart to bow. Each and every time, inwardly acknowledge He is holy. Do that when you pray. Do that when you read your Bible. Do that when you talk about Jesus with your friends. Do that when you swear accidently.

We're going to do this right now. Pastor is going to lead us in celebrating Holy Communion. This proclaims why Jesus is Holy, and why Jesus has a name that is above all names. And by celebrating Holy Communion, we fill His name with weight, and meaning, and praise. We proclaim His name and bow before Him, and we confess that He is the Christ and the Lord!

Pastor Andrew?

Holy Communion:

Prayers, Holy Communion, Offering,

Song -Sanctify

Closing Song: *How Great Is Our God* -Sanctify

Announcements:

Wednesday

Memory Verse: -David

"Do not use the Lord your God's name as if it were of no significance; the Lord won't forgive anyone who uses His name that way." -Exodus 20:7

Benediction