

III

DO NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

Exodus 20:7

*“You shall not take the name
of the LORD your God in vain,
for the LORD will not leave him
unpunished who takes
His name in vain.”*

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Exodus 20:7; Leviticus 19:12; Deuteronomy 6:13; Ephesians 4:29.
2. What is the significance of how we use the Lord's name?
3. What is the appropriate way that we ought to use the Lord's name?
4. How do you deal with your frustrations? What is the appropriate response with our words when we are angry and frustrated? How would the Lord want us to respond?
5. What does it mean to "fear the Lord?"
6. The Apostle Paul in Ephesians talks about "the need of the moment." Name several different common situations and circumstances that test us and our heart's response. How would the Lord want us to respond in those situations?

DAY 11 - DO NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

The Strength Of A Name

Exodus 20:7 / Psalm 8:1-9

I remember as a grammar school student in second grade, that I received the nickname, “Flash Gordon.” I was very skinny and I was somewhat fast! When you are skinny there are times you need to be fast! Well, the rounder that I became over the years, the nickname “Flash Gordon” soon faded away.

Unlike my nickname I love the names of our God and I really hate it when people abuse His name with profanity!

He is “Jehovah Jireh” the God who provides! He is “Jehovah Shalom”, our God of Peace! He is “Jehovah Rapha”, our God that heals. He is “Elohim”, the God above all Gods. He is “El-Shaddai”, the Almighty God.

When the unwelcome and disturbing circumstances of life threaten you, just reflect on the names of God! Why? Because God is always faithful to His names!

The Bible says that the “Name of the Lord is like a strong tower!” God-fearing people are to run to His name, not take it lightly or in vain!

This commandment is not about God being offended, but about people being lost and desensitized to the reality of the NAME that can save them!

Application: Are you doing everything you can to respect and protect the name of the Lord God with your life and your speech?

The next time you hit your finger with a hammer, will you pause and make sure that His Name is lifted, and not used in a profane way?

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 12 - DO NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

Shifting Speech

John 8:44 / James 3:9-11

The Lord God commands we not take His name in vain nor bear false witness against our neighbor. I have not always been a person of temperate speech. Before I became a born-again believer, committed to follow Jesus Christ, my thoughts and speech were offensive to all around me, but I did not recognize it, because they were like me. My speech was punctuated with swear words that railed against God and man. It was normal speech for me.

I knew the Holy Spirit took charge of my life because that was one of the first things to be eliminated from my speech; also I began to be offended when I heard it coming from others (and I still do today).

In my career as a police officer I heard this kind of speech from many with whom I came in contact and even my peers. My life just a few short years prior would have joined them in their coarse and filthy talk. I also found it was much easier to tell the truth than to bear false witness. It was also a requirement.

I am not perfect and here will be the occasional slip come upon me, but I recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in my life who convicts me. I take to heart James 3:9-11 that we cannot bless and curse at the same time—either we are in control or the Holy Spirit is in control.

Recognize the need to bless those around you, and to praise God daily. Practice speech that blesses and does not curse.

Application: “Father in Heaven, set a guard over my lips so that words of blessing and encouragement characterize my speech and my life. Holy Spirit, help me to discern the need of the moment so that my words give grace to those who hear (Ephesians 4:29). And, Holy Spirit, help me to live humbly and courageously and seek forgiveness when my words bring hurt and discouragement, so that my family and friends might see that You truly are the Lord of my life! Amen.”

Contributed by Steve Carter

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

The Name Of The Lord

Psalm 148

What does it mean to not “use the name of the Lord in vain?” There are many other synonyms one can use. “Do not misuse the name of the Lord.” “Do not disrespect the name of the Lord.” “Do not carelessly use the name of the Lord.” So, the question to ask is, “When others hear me speak about the Lord, or use the Lord’s name, do they sense my reverence, my respect, my awe of the Lord?” What is their impression of the Lord when they hear me speak of Him?

Four times the Psalmist asks, “*Who is like the Lord our God?*” (Psalm 35:10; 71:19; 89:8; 113:5). How would you answer that question? What makes the Lord our God so outstanding in your mind and life experience?

For those whom we love, we give endearing names, and speak of their name respectfully. We might call someone our, “Dearest friend.” My “Best Friend Forever.” “Sweetheart.” And, it would pain us to hear anyone speak derogatorily about anyone who we treasure as a friend. How much more should it be when we talk about our “Abba Father in Heaven.”

There is no one like our God! None can be compared with Him. In our speech today, let’s honor our Lord and show Him our great respect by our own speech. Let’s not be timid or afraid to speak of our God to others who need to hear that our God no longer holds our sins against us in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Application: “Father in Heaven, forgive me for the times I have been timid and afraid to honor you in my conversations with others. Help me today to not be ashamed, timid, or afraid to share with someone the joy that I have in knowing You! Amen.”

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

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Now talk with God... _____

DAY 14 - DO NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

Course Jestng

Ephesians 5:2-4

I grew up in a family where teasing was valued highly. Everybody had nick names, some of which were not complementary, and no mistake went by without both comment and commentary! Because I grew up in a home with middle class factory working type people, you might surmise that the language was also very colorful. When I became a follower of Christ at 16 years old, it became very apparent to me that these Christian people talked very differently, in fact they actually had their own language. Criticism, jesting, joking, and teasing seemed to be frowned upon. At some point a well-meaning gentleman shared God's word with me.

"Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God." (Ephesians 5:2-4 NLT)

As I recall the impact those words had on me, and how the Holy Spirit used them in my life, it literally changed the way I communicate with people.

Application: How might you change your communication today?

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

DAY 15 - DO NOT USE THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

His Name Must Be Protected And Respected

Proverbs 18:21

I do believe that everyone would agree that our society and families work best when there is no murder, stealing, lying, or cheating. Yet in the minds of many the third commandment is a different story. After all, they reason, everyone takes the Lord's name in vain occasionally.

God however does not agree! He is very serious about His name for just these two reasons alone.

1. When the Lord's name is taken in vain, the result is desensitization. We must not be desensitized to the reality of the very name that will save them! You must not trivialize the name of God.
2. There are also ramifications. Life and death are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). Mock Buddha and you will hear from the ACLU. Make fun of a Wiccan witch and you are then politically incorrect. But curse the name of Jesus and no one raises an eyebrow! We need to always use our Lord's name in the most respectful ways that we can. And in sharing His name we can turn the tough situations in life around to His glory!

Brothers and sisters do not take the name of the Lord in vain. Do not allow it to be blasphemed through your television by listening to the wrong things said about Him. His name needs to be respected and protected, for He is our God!

Application: The words that we say and the conversations that we are in, must always keep our Lord's name in high esteem!

REFLECT

What did you hear? _____

What do you think? _____

What will you do? _____

Now talk with God... _____

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