

Sermon Title: **Hallowed be Thy Name**

Written: July 23, 2016

Preached: July 24, 2016 at Waterville FBC

Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 6:9**

Thesis: **Next Jesus pointed out the Holiness of God;**

Purpose: **We will see the importance that God's Holiness plays in hearing our prayers.**

Key Word: "The Holiness of God"

Key Points: #1 Misuse of the Lord's Name
 #2 Proper Use of the Lord's Name
 #3 Networking

I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Matthew 6:9**

A) The Setting:

1) **Paul Dickson has written a book entitled, What's In A Name?¹**

- (a) In that book he shares some of the most unusual names he's come across.
 - (b) How would you like to have any of these for your name?
 - (i) Cletus Clodfelter,
 - (ii) Rotten Earp,
 - (iii) Jinglebells Kaplan,
 - (iv) and Boomfa Umfumpa.
 - (c) Can you imagine? "Hey Boomfa!"
 - (d) **I could add another cruel name to his list.**
 - (i) Pastor Timothy Smith said he actually knew of a preacher, an associate minister in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, who's last name is Odor.
 - (ii) His parents gave him the first name of.. Ivan! Ivan Odor!
 - (iii) It's no wonder he always uses his middle initial, Ivan C. Odor.
 - (e) **Dickson, also writes that some people seem to be destined to certain occupations by their names.**
 - (i) Joe Bunt became a baseball coach.
 - (ii) Dan Druff became a barber.
 - (iii) Two men with the last names of Goforth and Ketchum actually became partners in a police force.
 - (iv) I knew a Dentist named Dr. Toothaker and another named Dr. Molar.
 - (v) And a lot of people got a kick out of my French last name being LaFlamme which in French means "The Flame" and my first career was as a Firefighter.
 - (vi) Would you feel secure hiring a plaster contractor by the name of Will Crumble?
 - (f) **What's in a name? Well, God says there is a great deal of importance to a name when it's His name.**
- 2) **We are continuing our study on Prayer.**
- (a) When Jesus' disciples ask Him to teach them to pray He gave them the model prayer that we have titled, "The Lord's Prayer."
 - (b) As we have said this was not intended to be the only words we used in prayer; but rather that this intended to be a model of what a prayer should contain.
 - (c) Therefore, I think that as we look at what prayer is really intended to be . . . an in-depth study of this prayer will help us to explore what Jesus was driving at when He gave this prayer.
- 3) **Last week we looked at this same verse, Matthew 6:9.**
- (a) Looking at "**Our Father, Who art in Heaven.**"
 - (b) This week we look at the rest of that verse.
- 4) **So, that brings us to our scripture reading for today in Matthew 6:9.**

B) *Sermon Prayer*

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **What's in a name?**
 - (a) Names are important to God.
 - (b) They are not just a title for something; but have depth of meaning, character, and description of the person.
- 2) **Consider some of the Names for God given to us in the Bible:**
 - (a) There are two essential and personal names of God in the Hebrew scriptures²:
 - (b) Elohim and Jehovah (more correctly Yahweh)
 - (c) Elohim means divine power and speaks of God's power and might; the only supreme-true God.
 - (d) The later meaning "**He who is**" and thus declaring the divine self-existence.
 - (e) **These terms are varied or combined with others to bring out or emphasize certain attributes of the Godhead, with such variations or combinations being rendered in our English version as some of these:**
 - (i) "God Almighty",
 - (ii) "the Living God",
 - (iii) "the Most High",
 - (iv) "the Lord",
 - (v) "the Lord Provides" or
 - (vi) "the God of Hosts."
- 3) **Hallowed be Thy name.**
 - (a) Why is it important that God's name be hallowed?
 - (b) What does it mean to Hallow God's name?
- 4) **First of all the word "hallow" is an old English way of saying holy that means to make holy or sacred.³**
 - (a) The Greek⁴ form of the word means basically the same thing, to make holy, to sanctify, or to set apart for God.
 - (b) It means that we are to treat God's name as special;
 - (c) It is one of the 10 Commandments; "**do not take the name of the Lord in vain.**" (NASV) Or "**do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**" (NIV) **Exodus 20:7**
- 5) **But just what does that mean for us?**
 - (a) Better yet, how do we properly use the Lord's Name?
 - (b) This is what we explore today.

TS: **So, let's begin with the negative looking at the . . .**

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **Misuse of the Lord's Name**

- 1) **A 2009 article of Christianity Today titled, "How do you define the sin of taking the Lord's name in vain?"⁵ As we said this:**

[is a quote from the Ten Commandments: "**Don't take the name of the Lord your God in vain.**" The idea of vanity (*and I think the Hebrew carries this connotation*) is "**don't empty the name.**"

So it doesn't just refer to a certain tone of voice or a certain use of the word. **It's dealing with God and speaking of God in a way that empties him of his significance.**

This includes both throw-away words—like "God!" or "Jesus!"—as well as speaking about him in trifling and flippant ways. Not just swear ways but cheap ways, low and insignificant ways that just treat him like a commodity. And when you hear them you sense that there is no weight to that sentence, no corresponding emotion to that statement. It seems to have just been gutted.

God, Christ, the cross, the things He is and the things He did are great, and they're weighty. And there's a certain corresponding demeanor of worship that should be there.]

- 2) **We misuse the Name of God when we fail to show respect to God.**

- (a) Doing this fails to acknowledge His power over everything including our lives and His eternal existence everywhere.
- (b) God is our Master and deserves special recognition, glory, and credit for that is good.
- (c) It is not just when we speak God's name as a swear word; but when we trivialize it by saying it devoid of meaning and emotion.

TS: **So, then what is the . . .**

B) Key Point #2: **Proper Use of the Lord's Name**

1) **The rest of that 2009 article concluded stating that . . .**

[Taking the Lord's name in vain is more than "O my God!" or "Jesus Christ!" It is that . . . plus more.

The positive way to look at it is to revere God, love God, delight in God, know God, fill up with God and all that He is. And then out of the abundance of the heart the mouth will speak.

I think it is far better to take the commandments and not focus so much on the negative—that is "don't lie, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't kill"—but rather focus on [where](#) those come from, and put the emphasis there.

And here, "**don't take his name in vain**" would mean that you take his name in vain because He is empty to you. Your mind doesn't feel the weight and fullness of his glory.

So that's the key: vain is empty. Don't empty God of his weight and his glory. Fill it up rather than emptying it.](See endnote 5)

- 2) "**Hallowed be Thy name**" recalls that marvelous truth about our Father;⁶ written more than 700 years before Christ, the prophet Isaiah foresaw something unusual about the name of God:
 - (a) "**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'**" (Isaiah 9:6)
 - (b) The Angel told Jesus' mother ". . . **and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**" (Matthew 1:21)
 - (c) And later, the Apostle Peter wrote, "**And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**" (Acts 4:12)
- 3) God's name is Holy because He is Holy.
- 4) God is perfect

TS: **This is important because of . . .**

C) Key Point #3: **The Holiness of God**

- 1) R. C. Sproul⁷ makes this insightful observation from Isaiah 6:21, "**The Bible says that God is holy, holy, holy. Not that He is merely holy, or even holy, holy. He is holy, holy, holy. The Bible never says that God is love, love, love, or mercy, mercy, mercy, or wrath, wrath, wrath, or justice, justice, justice. It does say that He is holy, holy, holy, the whole earth is full of His glory.**"
- 2) **We tend to add Holiness to the long list of attributes of God; but God is morally pure.**

Sproul⁸ further adds, "*But when the word holy is applied to God, it does not signify one single attribute. On the contrary, God is called holy in a general sense. The word is used as a synonym for his deity. That is, the word holy calls attention to all*

that God is. It reminds us that His love is holy love, his justice is holy justice, his mercy is holy mercy, his knowledge is holy knowledge, his spirit is holy spirit."

- 3) **Hebrews 12:14** in the NIV says, "**Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.**"
- 4) Peter later wrote in his epistle, "**Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.** ¹⁴ **As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.** ¹⁵ **But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;** ¹⁶ **for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."**
- 5) **This is not a commandment for us to earn;**
 - (a) Peter is reminding us that because of God's Holiness, God can make us holy, purified in the sacrificial blood of Jesus atonement on the cross.
 - (b) Jesus already did the work; our part is to accept it and ask Jesus to be our Lord, Our God.
- 6) **When He sends the Holy Spirit to live in you;**
 - (a) God will begin the process of sanctification that will lead to holiness.
 - (b) When the day comes that you stand before God you will stand as pure and holy as HE because God will have purified you.

TS: In conclusion . . .

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) **God's name is Holy because God is Holy.**

- 1) Everything about God is Holy and pure.
- 2) And for us to live in His presence we must be made holy.

B) **We can't do this by earning it or pleasing God.**

- 1) We can only accept it through the work of Jesus by asking Jesus to rescue us.
- 2) Paul wrote to the Philippians, "**that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,** ¹¹ **and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**" (Philippians 2:10-11)

C) **This is why we hallow the name of God.**

D) This is how we can be made Holy;

E) By acknowledging who Jesus is and asking Him to be our Lord.

F) I hope you have made that commitment; if not don't leave here today without your reservation for eternity with a Holy God.

IV) Invitation: **Let us Pray!**

V) **Bibliography**

¹ Timothy Smith, sermoncentral.com, August 2004

² The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, Merrill F. Unger, Moody Press, 1957,1985, p.480

³ Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language, 2nd College Edition, William Collins Publishers, INC, 1980

⁴ Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, Unabridged Edition, MacDonald Publishing Company, Pg.530

⁵ <http://www.christianity.com/theology/what-does-it-mean-to-take-the-lords-name-in-vain-11600552.html>; © Desiring God 2009. See original post here. Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. For web posting, a link to this document on our website is preferred. Any exceptions to the above must be approved by Desiring God.

⁶ Living the Lord's Prayer, Everett L. Fullam with Bob Slosser, Epiphany Ballantine Books, New York, 1980, p.38

⁷ <https://bible.org/seriespage/5-holiness-god>

⁸ Ibid