



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

God's Top Ten Series, Lesson 35

Lesson Title: Honor God's Name

Take Home Point: Honor God's name.

Warm-Up:

Names are funny things to people. Most parents spend considerable time choosing the right name for their newborn child. Some people change their name to avoid association with their family; a friend of mine disliked his father so much that he did just that. Some change it to avoid negative comments or reactions based on a name common with an infamous character; for example, how many people do you think might still retain the name "Hitler?" And it's not only what a given name is, it can also be a name as an epithet. Would you appreciate being called "Benedict Arnold" by a close friend, or "Napoleon" by your co-workers if they were serious? What if a member of your family called you "Judas?" On the other hand, what if someone called you "Christ" because of your attitudes or actions? What do you think "Christian" means?

Read: Exodus 20:7, Isaiah 42:8, Matthew 26:69-75, Acts 4:7-12

Observation (What happened?):

What does God want us to protect every day?

What did Peter and John emphasize as the source of healing for the crippled man?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What does it mean to misuse the name of the Lord?

Why do you think God is so particular about the use and misuse of his name?

Insight:

What's in a name? When you speak someone's name to a third person, what you are saying is not simply that person's name, but you are using the name to represent associated traits, tendencies, attitudes, or actions of that person. A name represents many things, such as the person's personality, reputation, family, social connections, ethnic background, faults, heroism, deeds, past, and so much more. The use of our name by one who knows us is the recognition of who we are. That is no less true of God. That's why he is so concerned about our use, or misuse, of his name. Do we demonstrate by our use of his name his true character of holiness, righteousness, love, compassion, justice, mercy, patience, and all his other attributes? Or do we make him out to be small and mean by how we limit his ability to act and how we think he acts? And don't forget our silence in the face of disparaging or demeaning comments about God is just as deafening as any words we may speak. God wants more than for us not to dishonor his name – he wants us to honor it and make his wonderful person known.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you dishonor God's name? What can you do to stop?

How do you honor God's name? How do people around you know that you belong to him?