

Hallowed Be Your Name Part 2

***Huh?

Dentist names:

Dr. Chew (dentist)

Dr. De Ka

Dr. Drewel

Dr. Fang

Dr. Filler

Dr. Les Plack

Dr. Mollar

Dr. Pick (dentist)

Dr. Pullen (dentist)

Dr. Pullman (dentist)

Dr. Root

Dr. Yankum

Dr. Whitehead (dermatologist)

***Hmmm.

Nicknames stick to people, and the most ridiculous are the most adhesive.

~Thomas C. Haliburton

Review:

Last week we started a new series of sermons surrounding the names of Jesus as prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

***In Isaiah 9:6 it says

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

And what we will do is we will take some names and talk about the different aspects of Jesus as we move through the rest of this Christmas season.

Last week Laurie started us off by introducing the series and concentrated on the Holiness of God's name. She also left us with a challenge to honor the 3rd commandment, "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

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How many of you found it challenging to watch your speech this week for instances where we use God's name inappropriately?

This week we are going to continue by looking at the name that Joseph was asked to call Jesus in a dream.

***Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

***22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife,

25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

***Why was it so important to further explain to Joseph?

Well it was important to Joseph for the same reason it is important to us.

Up until this point in history, God spoke to and communed with a very select few of the Jewish people. In fact in this point in history, it had been approximately

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400 years since anyone had heard from God and wrote it down. For the Jewish people, 10 Generations of people had passed since the last message directly from God. And in a culture where most of what they knew about God was passed orally from father to son and mother to daughter, this is 10 generations of stories. And you know how we are. Historic events become legends, then myths, then fairy tales the longer they go on.

So here we are in a very religious society, who's concept of God is somewhere up there. But here is a man that is called righteous. He keeps the law. He does what he knows to do.

And now he is presented with circumstances that scream adultery, and unfaithfulness. She is pregnant with someone else's baby.

So in spite of all his keeping of the Law, his waiting for the right girl, his careful selection of a wife, God still lets him down.

Joseph didn't believe one iota of Mary's story because it had been 10 generations since God had spoken to anyone and He's going to start with a 14 year old virgin?? A girl??? Joseph was righteous but he wasn't stupid!

It's important for Joseph and it's important for us because we have to see God at work in this.

***1. God wants to reveal to us His will for our lives. (v20)

Those of you in here struggling to see God in the midst of your circumstances can find comfort in the fact that God didn't hesitate to show Joseph what He was up to. If you will but consider your plans in the light of God's plan for you.

***2. God's will for us will always be confirmed in His word. (v22, 23)

Joseph was a man of the word, He was a man of prayer, he knew the scriptures so when God takes a passage from the writings of the prophet Isaiah, it was not just another passage of scripture. God takes him to a passage of scripture that so identifies Jesus as the Messiah that Joseph immediately understands where God is going with this.

By bringing up the name Immanuel, God paints the picture for Joseph. And for many of us we skip over the significance of this name.

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Until this point in history, God was the holy other. He was set apart. He was far above. He was unreachable for the human race. We could know about Him, but we couldn't know Him. His name as revealed to Moses was I AM.

Now as Immanuel, He was becoming God, with us.

***John 1:17-18

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.