

Series: Striving Together For the Faith as a Family

# TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

## EXODUS 20:7 & MATTHEW 15:8

Text:

### **Exodus 20:7**

*<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

### **Matthew 15:8**

*<sup>8</sup> This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

Introduction:

As we continue to consider the Ten Commandments and striving together for the faith as a family we come to the third commandment.

“Taking God’s Name In Vain”

What's in a name? That question has been asked many times. What's so important about a name? Well, in Bible times when a child was born, the parents would pray over that child and give him or her a name that encompassed a prayer and a prophecy concerning that child.

That's the reason we see so many people in the Bible whose names match their character.

Notice these things as we consider this commandment regarding taking God's name in vain.

## 1. PLEA

### ***Exodus 20:7***

*<sup>7</sup> Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

All that we do and say as Christians reflect upon the name of the Lord.

Just as we are concerned about our name, the Lord is concerned about His name.

### ***1 Samuel 12:22***

*<sup>22</sup> For the LORD will not forsake his people **for his great name's sake**: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.*

### ***Psalms 23:3***

*<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness **for his name's sake**.*

**Psalm 25:11**

<sup>11</sup> **For thy name's sake**, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

**Psalm 31:3**

<sup>3</sup> For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore **for thy name's sake** lead me, and guide me.

**Psalm 79:9**

<sup>9</sup> Help us, O God of our salvation, **for the glory of thy name**: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, **for thy name's sake**.

**Psalm 106:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. <sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise? <sup>3</sup> Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. <sup>4</sup>

Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; <sup>5</sup>

That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance. <sup>6</sup> We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. <sup>7</sup> Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea. <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless he saved them **for his name's sake**,

that he might make his mighty power to be known.<sup>9</sup>  
He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.<sup>10</sup> And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.<sup>11</sup> And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.

### **Psalm 143:11**

<sup>11</sup> Quicken me, O LORD, **for thy name's sake**: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Not only do we see here a “Plea” but note also:

## **2. PORTRAIT**

One way God describes Himself to mankind is through His names, which lets us know He is knowable, and personal, again because a name describes and identifies.

- The name “Lord” speaks of His self-existence and eternal state.
- The name “Father” and “Provider” tells us that He is the One to whom we must turn to for every blessing.

Without him we are lost and would have nothing.

His name speaks of authority.

Note not only the “Plea” and “Portrait” but also:

### **3. PROOF**

#### ***Matthew 15:8***

*<sup>8</sup> This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*

We see proof of insincerely considering the Lord’s name in meaningless worship.

Some indications of this can be seen when:

- We Are Preoccupied With Problem

Often people sing hymns and pray while their thoughts are elsewhere and our words are merely mechanical.

- We Have a Worldly Spirit

When God’s name is named in God’s house or in private places, the mind and the heart drift to personal dreams and desires.

This commandment is seriously infringed when enlightened people pretend to worship and their minds are on other things.

Not only is being “Pre-occupied with Problems” and “Having a Worldly Spirit” indicators of taking God’s name in vain but note also:

- We Are Disobedient to God

### **Ezekiel 33:30-33**

<sup>30</sup> *Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the LORD.* <sup>31</sup> *And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.* <sup>32</sup> *And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.* <sup>33</sup> *And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.*

### **Luke 6:46**

<sup>46</sup> *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

Often individuals bow their head in prayer and address God by His name, but have failed to do the things and neglected the opportunities that arise.

Note also:

- Are Lazy or Casual Approach

Much of what many consider worship is done in a casual or lazy manner.

All worship which is nominal or lazy is vain, and vain worship is a breach of the third commandment.

Note Luke 21:28-36

Note when people become distracted by being casual in their approach to God and His work some will

- Grow Unmindful of the Dangers (vs. 34)

**Luke 21:34-35**

<sup>34</sup> *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you **unawares**.* <sup>35</sup> *For as **a snare** shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

A Failed Sense Of Success (vs. 34) "Unawares"

A False Sense Of Security (vs 35) "...as a snare..."

Not only will some “Grow Unmindful of the Dangers” but also some will:

- Grow Unrestrained in Their Desires (vs. 34)

**Luke 21:34**

<sup>34</sup> *And take heed to yourselves, **lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life**, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

We see here:

Playfulness of Life – with surfeiting

Pleasures of Life – and drunkenness

Pursuits of Life – and cares of this life

Not only will some “Grow Unmindful of the Dangers” and “Grow Unrestrained in Their Desires” but also some will:

- Grow Unfaithful In Their Duty (vs. 36)

**Luke 21:36**

<sup>36</sup> *Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*



A casual approach to the Lord is disastrous.

Not only is being “Pre-occupied with Problems” “Having a Worldly Spirit” “Disobedience to God” and “Casually Approaching God” indicators of taking God’s name in vain but note also:

- Discontent and Grumbling Spirit

### **1 Corinthians 10:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*

Grumbling and groaning is certain to turn our worship into a vain desolate wasteland.

Note not only “A Plea” “Portrait” and “Proof” but lastly:

## **4. PROMISE**

### **Exodus 20:7**

<sup>7</sup> *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for **the LORD will not hold him guiltless** that taketh his name in vain.*

- A. We will answer for our words.
- B. We will give an account of our worship.

Close:

Are we guilty of taking God's name in vain today?

If so we need to confess this and seek His forgiveness.