

SN004 – 04/21/13
“The Lord’s Name”
Exodus 20:7

Introduction

- We are taking a few months to go through the 10 Commandments found in Exodus Chapter 20
 - Now why in the world in New Testament age of Grace times would we want to do that?

Well for one reason on Wednesday Nights we are looking at the Book of Exodus from which the 10 Commandments come in its entirety

- And seeing the context for what we are studying is so important and so I want to connect the two
 - This week.....

Okay, sounds interesting but why are we studying the law with all its weird customs and dietary laws

- Well remember the first five books of the Bible are called the Law, but much of it is what the New Testament calls the Law of Moses
 - the holiday the Jews were suppose to keep
 - the rights of cleanliness that the Jews were to do
 - the Law of Moses was given to the Jewish people for that time
- The 10 commandments are different – they are given to all people for all time
 - Why???

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

- We wonder why don't people see their need for Christ. Why do people walk away from Jesus?

I think one of the reasons is because we do a disservice to the gospel of Jesus Christ when we say things like – Give your life to Christ, He will make your life better

- It has been such a good experience for me!

We are like the flight attendant I talked about the first night who had been told by the pilot, 3 of the 4 engines have failed and we are going down, get the parachutes out

- But that flight attendant, like many of us, we don't want to offend, we don't want to impose

So she says, hey, sorry to interrupt your in-flight movie, sorry to interrupt your diet coke drinking – but would anyone like a parachute

- see how good it looks on me, it should you seat more comfortable
 - and most people are like why is this person interrupting my movie
 - and the few who take one, realize right away, it doesn't make my seat more comfortable and they want to take it off

But if that flight would have been honest with the people – We are going down

- but good news, we have a parachute, who wants one
 - well then no one would care about the movie or their soda
 - no – help me, give me the parachute

And so too when we in love, help people to see there is a standard, and you have fallen short and the wages of sin really is death

- but good news, there is a savior
 - The law doesn't save us, doesn't make us more acceptable to God
 - But when we understand it, it drives us to Christ

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

- The Law show us our duty to God and to our fellow man – this is how you love God and love people
 - And in a day and age where so many including Christians do whatever is right in their own eyes, because we have lost the standard
- We live in the age of Grace which I am thankful for, we could not be saved without grace
 - But we sometimes think well then it doesn't matter how I live, grace brother – no friend there is a standard

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

#3 – The Law helps us Discover Christ

- You learn something about the Law giver from the laws

Some of the laws on the books in our city governments let us know that at one time someone making laws was dumb

- Last week we picked on Texas, lets stay in the south
 - In Alabama it is illegal to wear a fake mustache to church to produce laughter
 - It is illegal to put an ice-cream in your back pocket, though in next door Georgia that is only illegal on Sundays
 - You can not keep a donkey in a bathtub – where do you want me to keep my donkey
 - And it is illegal to flick boogers into the wind – praise the Lord
- We will look at other states as this series progresses

But those laws tell you something about the lawgivers

- well the 10 Commandments are the same
 - and what we primarily will discover about God from His law is that He is love

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” - I John 5:3

- As we keep His commandments
 - Not to save us, not to qualify us for His love
 - But just as we are directed in Christ - I experience His love for me

My kids are at that age when sleepovers are the big weekend event, and I tell them, would you please try to go to bed, just get some sleep. Ah Dad why are you saying that – you are just stealing my joy – and so they disobey – and the next day it never fails – “We have to run some errands – but Dad I’m so tired, can’t I just sleep, no we are not going to leave you at home alone – you need to get with it today and maybe realize that my commandments are not burdensome – they are not to steal your joy, I want you to have fun at your friends – my commandments are to make the rest of the your weekend fun as well – its because I love you – the Lord is the same way

Same thing with the laws of God and tonight we get to Commandment #3...

“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain” – Exodus 20:7

Now I go over this again, that God’s commandments are because He loves us - because I believe we especially need to keep it in mind as we look at commandment number three

- I mean all of us agree – Idol worship – bad
 - Murder – bad
 - Cheating on your husband or wife – bad
 - Stealing – you get the picture

But there is strange exception of the third commandment

- And as we discuss this today – I encourage you, there may be some things you at first disagree with
 - Pray it in, think it through – and realize His commandments are not grievous
 - They are to be a blessing, not a burden

With the commandment “do not murder”, God adds nothing, “With the commandment do not steal” He adds nothings – we get those

- but with the 3rd commandment, there is qualification, there is explanation – “I will not hold him guiltless..”
 - and I believe it is because God knows us – and know we would have the tendency to say – now, that is not really a big one, not important
 - everybody takes the Lord’s name in vain every once in a while – that one is not so important
- God is saying, Hold on – I am very serious about this

In other words God is saying this is serious

- we would say “what is the big deal?”
 - so a person swears occasionally
 - so a person lapses and uses God’s name in vain
- What is the big deal, why is that so important
 - Is God so uptight about His name
 - Is He so haughty that He says, “don’t banter my name about”

When I moved to Texas I had no idea how the title or name of Pastor was so important. Now don’t misunderstand I understand the role is important, but you know the name means “shepherd or servant.” And I had no idea how insist some people were that you call them that. “Call me servant” – Listen I am I true ordained minister, but if you feel you want to just call me Jason, I’m great with that – if you feel the need to call me Pastor Jason, great also, doest bother me – as long as you don’t me Reverend – there is nothing

reverent about me - But I was amazed in Texas how into titles some guys are. I have met them – how are you doing brother so and so?... I am not your brother, my name is Pastor... kind of silly when you know what is mean (oh) “call me servant, call me slave”
But Is God like that – so uptight about His name that judgment comes when we use it in vain –

- you call me God, I have earned the right
 - is that what God is like
 - No – I think that is missing the point totally

First of all we need to understand what it means to “Take the Name of the Lord in Vain”

- well when you break it down it becomes easier to understand
 - **The phrase “To take” – means to hold up, take or use**
 - Obviously we understand what the name of the Lord is
 - And then **“In vain” – means to produce an emptiness or to make devoid of meaning**
- So to take the Name of the Lord in Vain is when we hold up, take or use the Holy Name of God in a way that makes that name empty or devoid of meaning
 - How can we do this?

How do we take the name of the Lord in vain?

#1 – Through vulgarity or profanity

- so entrenched in our culture is this willingness to when angry, when frustrated, to use the name of the Lord, or the things of the Lord as an expression of frustration or even excitement
 - “okay but why is that a big deal?”
- Because when the Lord’s Name is used to express frustration, when the Lord’s name is used to express surprise or adulation what happens is there is a

There is a terrible trivialization

- when the Lord’s name is used in a vain way whether it at the Movies or on TV or by us
 - there is a trivialization that comes about
 - what do you mean????

Remember To take something in vain means to empty of meaning

- and that is what happens
 - when the name of God, the name of Jesus is used in vanity, vainly – the powerful name of God, the greatest name that has ever been, “Jesus” – losses that power, that greatness
- Not in reality, but in the ears and the hearts of those who are taking it in vain
 - It is emptied of meaning
 - It desensitizes people to the name

Those who use the Lord’s name in vain, those that are around it – when you come along and begin to share the wonders and the goodness of the name of the Lord

- it has no effect, it doesn’t pierce the heart
 - and the reason is they have become desensitized to the word – Jesus

That is why Satan is behind blasphemy and profanity

- it is because it desensitizes our cultural to the reality and power of Jesus – God, eternity and even hell and damnation

You never hear some yell out – “Oh Satan”

- oh Buddha – when they hit there finger
 - Harry Krishna, what are you doing?
 - You don’t hear it
- Its only the name of God, the name of Jesus, the idea of Hell and damnation that is used
 - And there is a reason, the enemy is trying to diminish the power of those words in our ears
 - And it is working

It is interesting think back in the late 40’s when the movie Gone with the Wind first came out – Clark Cable famous said, “Frankly my dear, I don’t give a damn”

That one statement back then caused great controversy

- sermons were preached, articles were written
 - and the reason they were so offended, because people understood what damnation really meant – and they were shocked it was used so flippantly in a movie

And yet Satan has been at work trivializing the name of Jesus, trivializing the name of God, trivializing the idea of Hell and damnation

- and today people speak freely saying damn this, damn that from comedians to actors, to democrats to Conservations, to heathens and Christians
 - and the name of God, the name of Jesus, the idea of Hell, and damnation have lost their power
 - though not their reality – and that is what is makes it the scariest of all
- We live in a day with no fear of God, no reverence of Christ and no horror of Hell and judgment

God knows this – so He says, the sakes are high – do not take the Name of the Lord in vain

- it is not about me being offended because I am some type of religious prude
 - it is about people going to Hell, it is about people not being affected by the greatest name of all time
 - because we have emptied it of its meaning and effectiveness – we have used it in vain

I remember it was years ago now, but I was watching USC verses Norte Dame and USC came from behind to win, remember when they used to do that – anyway – the Southern California play by play guy after USC had the last second victory started screaming - “OH my god, oh my God, oh my god” – now what was happening there - Pastor Jason, let me help you – it doesn’t mean He is worshipping USC, it is just an expression of happiness and surprise - OMG

It does not mean God

- exactly!!!! – It doesn’t mean God – the name of God – the only name by which man can be saved has been so trivialized – that it now carries no meaning at all

Do not take the Lord’s name in vain, it is a terrible trivialization – we can do that through profanity, or vulgarity

- but there is another thing we need to consider

“Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): 8 Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches — Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.”
– Proverbs 30:7-9

- You see the writer says, there are two ways to profane the name of the Lord
 - One with our words, but two with our actions
 - What do you mean???
- We can take the name of the Lord in vain with profanity and vulgarity
 - But we can also do it

How do we take the name of the Lord in vain?

#1 – Through vulgarity or profanity

#2 – Through hypocrisy

- you see when we come to know the Lord, He in a very real sense puts His name upon us
 - and He did this which the children of Israel

"So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."
– Numbers 6:27

- and He has done that with us
 - we are called by His name, we take on the name of Christian which means little Christ
 - wonderful – where are going with this

And when we misrepresent the Lord it is serious thing

- when I was pastoring the church in Texas when we were feeding evacuees after Katrina and they were in the local high school gym and our church was feeding them that night – well they were eating and right in the middle of dinner the lights went out – These poor people having flashbacks to the Katrina but what it made it worse is I heard a very familiar little voice in the dark – “oh sorry” it was my daughter Haley – she had turned the lights out on these poor people – I was so embarrassed – if it had been your kids, well that would have been hilarious – but it was my kids, my name – I was so embarrassed
 - are you saying the Lord is embarrassed with me? – no
 - What I am saying – it is a serious thing to represent Him

Remember Moses – the people wanted water, they complained – God understood – speak to the Rock – he beats the rock – God blesses the people and says – come here Moses – you are not going in into the promise land

- God was saying to Moses, it is a serious thing to represent me
 - Why – again – to take the name of the Lord in vain – means to hold it in a way that diminishes the meaning
 - And what we do, when we take the name of the Lord and yet diminish its meaning by our lifestyle is we distort people view of God

My grandpa would tell me of my uncle who to date has not responded to the Lord, when grandpa got on fire he would share and it was followed by – “except during football season – my grandpa would not go before he really met the Lord – and that spoke volumes to my Uncle

- we say a lot about who God is, as we take His name
 - and the lie of the enemy is – it doesn't matter – everyone does this - that is not true

It was that way in Israel until one man did not take the name of the Lord in vain

- And the people were drawn to Him – and Jesus changed the world for many reasons, but one...
 - He properly represented God to them
 - He did not take the Lord's name in vain

And as you and I, we not perfect, but when we are genuine believers – people will notice

- and when Ted Couple and Larry King – makes their statement how all Christians are Hypocrites and the world nods in approval
 - your family, your friends the people you have met and impacted will remember – no I met someone who did not take the name of the Lord in vain – but held it up with passion

How do we take the name of the Lord in vain?

#1 – Through vulgarity or profanity

#2 – Through hypocrisy

#3 – By “taking it”

- last thing tonight – maybe you would say, well I didn't need to be here tonight
 - because I don't use the name of the Lord in vain
 - I don't use his name in profanity
- And I don't live in hypocrisy
 - And if that is true, I say amen, God bless you
 - But there is one other way, I think we can violate this command

You see it may be you don't use the Lord's name in vain

- it may be that you don't take the Lord name to who you are Christian, and then live in total hypocrisy
 - but maybe when others are using the Lord's name in vain
 - when the TV is using the Lord's name in vain
 - maybe you just sit there and take it

And again, this is advance stuff tonight

- most of the Christian world would say, “No big deal, what the problem, I'm not saying it, I'm not living in hypocrisy, what the big deal
 - but God's word says “do not take it”
 - Don't take it anymore

When you hear someone using the Lord's name in vain, if the Lord leads, in love share with them

- I was out playing golf and someone I was playing with borrowed my driver and as he hit the shot he yelled out the Lord's name and then said damn it
 - And I just nicely said to him, hey, I have enough trouble hitting my driver straight, please don't ask God to damn my Driver
 - I wasn't talking to God... and it opened up a great conversation between the two of us

- And that won't happen every time, I had similar things and the guy says nothing else to me the whole time, but either way – I didn't take it

How about when it comes into your home

- do you turn the show off and maybe talk to your children about why it is important that the name of the Lord is not diminished in our hearts
 - oh Jason – be practical – if I turned off the TV every time I heard the phrase GD being used, I would have to be turning the TV off all the time and teaching my kids all the time – well bingo
- The Lord warns us – not because He is angry or mean, but why each of these commandments – there are His love
 - I don't want my name to be diminished in your home, with your kids, in your life
 - I am telling you this because I love you
- you see when we come to know the Lord he in very real sense puts His name upon us

I was sharing this same teaching at a church and afterwards a mom came up to me and said, "You keep preaching this pastor Jason, I grew up in a home where the name of the Lord was not allowed to be taken in vain, we did not take it. But when I had kids, I didn't want to be as restrictive as my parents, I wanted my kids to be free with what they watched and listen to, but you preach it pastor Jason, because now years later, I have watched the name of the Lord be diminished in my now adult children, and what I thought was a burden from my parents, was actually a blessing that my kids missed out on because I didn't see"

- listen friends
 - I don't know what that ladies parents were like – I don't know if they were the do as I say, not as I do kind of parents
 - I don't know if they were cruel with their rules
- But all I know is we don't have to be that way and still follow the commands of God
 - They are given to us to be a blessing
 - And so we need to dispense them and follow them as a blessing
 - The Blessing the Name of the Lord would not be held up in Vain, emptied of meaning in our homes and in our hearts
 - I want the name of the Lord to be powerful in my son and in my daughters, I want the name of the Lord to be powerful in my heart
 - I don't want to take it in vain!

I don't do that – I don't speak that – great

> but notice the phraseology – don't take it

We allow it in our homes, in movies – and there is an effect

When it happens – use it as a lesson – I would teach them all the time – exactly –

A lady this morning shared with me – "you tell them, because I saw it in my kids – the idea of God was diminished in them, because it was allowed