**Ten Commandments Series July 11, 2021**

*The Third Commandment*

Exodus 20:7 (NIV84)  
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God,   
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Exodus 20:7 (NASB)  
You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,   
for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.

1. What does it mean to misuse God’s name or to take it in vain?

Misuse

* “**lift up**,” “take,” “pronounce”
* It does not mean we are not permitted to speak His name
* It means we are not to use it in any way that would impugn His character or demean his nature

“Lord your God”

* Lord is the covenant name Israel had for God
  + It is so highly respected, and in light of the 3rd commandment, many (most?) Jews will not pronounce or even write His name because it is so Holy
  + Others substitute, “Adonai” for His name out of reverence and respect

“in vain”

* **Empty**, nothing, worthless, to no good purpose

Prohibition against **using God’s name lightly**

Prohibition against **profanity**

Prohibition against **using His name in sorcery**

Prohibition against **false prophecy**

Prohibition against **false oaths**

2. What is so significant about God’s name that it deserves to be protected?

* God’s name is **Holy** and sets Him apart as the one true God
  + Matthew 6:9–10 (KJV)  
    9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
* Use God’s name in **worship and praise**
  + Psalm 29:2   
    Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name;   
    Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 What does the punishment mean associated with this commandment?

* **None were directly** specified in Exodus
  + Leviticus 24:15–16   
    15 You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. 16 Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.’

**What does this mean for me?**

* Be extremely careful how you use **God’s name**
  + “The Lord told me to…”
  + “OMG”
  + Jesus…
* Be **intentional** about uplifting God’s name rightly in your daily conversations
  + Take opportunities to talk about His significance to you
  + Pray using God’s names
  + Worship Him rightly and reverently using His names

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2. What is so significant about God’s name that it deserves to be protected?

* God’s name is **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** and sets Him apart as the one true God
  + Matthew 6:9–10 (KJV)  
    9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
* Use God’s name in **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + Psalm 29:2   
    Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name;   
    Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

3 What does the punishment mean associated with this commandment?

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** specified in Exodus
  + Leviticus 24:15–16   
    15 You shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ‘If anyone curses his God, then he will bear his sin. 16 Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.’

**What does this mean for me?**

* Be extremely careful how you use **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + “The Lord told me to…”
  + “OMG”
  + Jesus…
* Be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** about uplifting God’s name rightly in your daily conversations
  + Take opportunities to talk about His significance to you
  + Pray using God’s names
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