

What's in a Name?

Lesson 3 – Praying in Jesus' Name

Review

God's name represents his _____. (see *Exodus 34:5-7, John 17:25-26*)

To bear or “take” God's name is to represent him in how you _____ and _____.

In this regard, no one is _____ – you either _____ his name or take his name in _____.

The principle involved

Acting in someone's name means acting on their _____ and/or with their _____.

In Lesson 1 we looked at several examples of this, including *prophesying* in God's name (*Deuteronomy 18:22*), *blessing* people in God's name (*1 Chronicles 16:2*), *gathering* in God's name for church discipline (*Matthew 18:18-20, 1 Corinthians 5:4-5*), etc.

There are _____ not to do this presumptuously (*Deuteronomy 18:20*),
because we run the risk of misrepresenting God,
which is the sin of taking his name in _____. (see Lesson 2)

What happened to the sons of Sceva when they attempted to use the name of Jesus Acts 19:14-16?

We learn from this that there is a key component of acting in someone's name:

The _____ of the one we claim to represent.

An ambassador acts in the name of her nation, but she is **not** free to create foreign policy!

The example of Jesus

Jesus described himself as acting in his _____ name (*John 5:43; 10:25*)

What did this look like for Jesus, according to *John 5:19, 30; 6:38*?

“Acting as the Father's agent – in his name – did not grant Jesus the power to autonomously performs anything he wished, willy-nilly. He was constrained as any agent is constrained by the character and the purposes of the authority being represented... For Jesus to act in the name of the Father was for him to speak and to perform only those things that the Father wanted him to say and do.” -David Crump, *Knocking on Heaven's Door*

The command and promise misunderstood

Jesus instructs his followers to pray *in his name* and gives them great _____ for when they do so.
John 14:13-14; 15:16

How do people often carry out this command?

What do we expect?

Why the name of Jesus?

The name itself does not hold any magic or spiritual _____ necessary for prayer

The name of Jesus is significant because it is through him

that the _____ and _____ of God is most clearly revealed to us.

John 14:8-14; Colossians 1:19-20

To his first disciples, who were all _____, this was to more clearly express
the importance of approaching the Father _____.

The command and promise reconsidered

How does ***John 14:12*** give us context for understanding what follows it?

How does ***John 15:12-17*** give us context for *verse 16*?

How does ***Matthew 6:9-10*** establish the context for our requests in prayer?

How does ***James 4:2-3*** warn us about what we ask for in prayer?

How does ***Luke 11:13*** clarify what it looks like for God to give to us when we ask (***Luke 11:9-13***)?

How does ***Romans 8:26-27*** address our concern about whether asking for the right things?

Summary

To pray in the name of Jesus is to act upon the _____ of ***2 Peter 1:3-4***, and ***Hebrews 13:20-21***.

It is to pray with the recognition of God's purposes for your _____ and the _____,
calling upon his _____ to do what he has called you to do.

Praying in his name assumes we know and are seeking his will in what we are praying,
perhaps not in _____ (***Romans 8:26***), but certainly in _____.

To do anything "in the name of the Lord" is to act as the Lord's appointed representative, employing his power to effect his purposes in complete conformity to his direction. In effect, to pray in the Lord's name is to ask that his will is accomplished, precisely the disposition adopted by the righteous praying with faith. -Crump, *Knocking on Heaven's Door*

Concluding thought

How should this understanding inform your approach to prayer?