

## W.W.W.

How will our **W**ords **W**itness to the **W**orld  
Exodus 20:7 & Matt 12:36

Opening: Mind Game

A bunny hops.... **SAY "HOP" 10 X FAST**

I need wood for my fire place... **SAY "CHOP" 10 X FAST**

### WHAT DO YOU DO AT A GREEN LIGHT.....

**Word**: is defined as a speech sound or series of them, serving to communicate meaning.

Gen 11:1 "At one time the whole world spoke a single language and used the same words".

<sup>3</sup> They began to talk about construction projects. "Come," they said, "let's make great piles of burnt brick and collect natural asphalt to use as mortar.

<sup>4</sup> Let's build a great city with a tower that reaches to the skies--a monument to our greatness! This will bring us together and keep us from scattering all over the world."

<sup>5</sup> But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.

<sup>6</sup> "Look!" he said. "If they can accomplish this when they have just begun to take advantage of their common language and political unity, just think of what they will do later. Nothing will be impossible for them!

<sup>7</sup> Come, let's go down and give them different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

<sup>8</sup> In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the earth; and that ended the building of the city.

<sup>9</sup> That is why the city was called Babel, because it was there that the LORD confused the people by giving them many languages, thus scattering them across the earth.

Gen 11:3-9 (NLT)

So where does our words and language come from? \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....

*Have you ever been in the wrong place at the wrong time?*

Moses was a man who was definitely in the wrong place at the wrong time! Why? you may ask... Well, In Exodus 2 : Moses had just murdered an Egyptian man because of the way he was treating his own people, he thought he got away with it, but he was seen and confronted the next day by one of the Hebrews. So Moses jets to Midian and becomes a Shepherd. Ahh, life is good, He meets some women, marries one of them, has a kid - what a life... or so he thought!

While he is out doing his Shepherd duty he winds up meeting someone ... you guessed it - God Himself! IMAGINE THAT -

What if you were out shopping and you decide to purchase some home entertainment equipment and you wind up spending around \$3,000. You get home and notice on the receipt that the kid on the cash register didn't ring in the speakers which were over \$800.00 - so you say "ah too bad for the store, it was their screw up, their loss and my gain! So you hook everything up, hit the power button and BAMM...instead of hearing the CD you just put in you hear the voice of God saying "Nice speakers, how much they cost ya?"

So here in this narrative, we have Moses meeting God who reveals himself through a burning bush, God sending Moses back to his people to let them know that he'll be the one to tell Pharaoh that God is going to release His people. Moses is no dummy, he knows the people are going to laugh their butts off and Pharaoh is going to ask who sent him..

### Turn with me to Exodus 3:10 -15

<sup>10</sup> Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You will lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup> "But who am I to appear before Pharaoh?" Moses asked God. "How can you expect me to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup> Then God told him, "I will be with you. And this will serve as proof that I have sent you: When you have brought the Israelites out of Egypt, you will return here to worship God at this very mountain."

<sup>13</sup> But Moses protested, "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they won't believe me. They will ask, 'Which god are you talking about? **What is his name?**' Then what should I tell them?"

<sup>14</sup> God replied, "I AM THE ONE WHO ALWAYS IS. Just tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

<sup>15</sup> God also said, "Tell them, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.' **This will be my name forever**; it has always been my name, and it will be used throughout all generations. (NLT)

### ***HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....***

God used words to communicate to Moses His plan to redeem the nation of Israel. God sent the living Word - Jesus Christ to redeem us from the bondage of sin. God today, uses the Bible to communicate to us who He is, what His purpose is for us, what he has done for us, and what He requires of you and me.

### Turn with me now to Exodus 20:7

The NIV says

"You shall not **misuse the name** of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone *guiltless* who misuses his name.

The NASB says

"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.

The NRSV says

You shall not **make wrongful use of the name** of the LORD your God, for the LORD *will not acquit* anyone who misuses his name.

When you look at these 10 commandments God wants you to know:

- The first three deal with our relationship to God (V. 3,4,7)
- The other seven deal with our relationship with each other (V. 8, 12-17)
- Two of them have a judgment and a promise attached (V. 7, 12)

Lets now focus on verse 7 - looking at three translations, each stating the same fact but using a different word - God said

Don't **misuse** MY NAME,

Don't take MY NAME in **vain**

Don't make **wrongful use** of MY Name

**Name:** is defined 1.) as a word or phrase by which a person is known, called or spoken to or of. 2.) a word or words expressing some quality considered characteristic or descriptive

In bible times a "name" was very important. It may represent a physical feature such as the name "Esau" which means "hairy". It may represent a plant or animal like "Deborah" which means "bee" to signify that bees are very busy creatures and the hopes that the child would be useful and busy for God. Deborah was a judge, prophetess, wife, warrior singer and mother. Another characteristic of a name may be in the birth or the destiny of a child - Jesus "He will save the people from their sin". The Hebrew language also changes one name based upon circumstances.

MY POINT - We must be reverent of God's name. WHY? Thomas Oden says

*"God is the uncreated source and end of all things; one, incomparably alive, insurmountable in presence, knowledge, and power; personal, eternal spirit, who in holy love freely creates, sustains, and governs all things".*

### **HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....**

When you say or hear: "Oh my G\_\_\_\_" in every sentence you are misusing God's name.

When you say or hear “For G\_\_\_\_\_ sake” or “I swear to G\_\_\_\_\_” you are taking His name in vain

When you hear or say “I got my finger stuck in the GD door” or “JC did you see that! The old man almost got hit by that truck” you are making wrongful use of God’s name.

WHENEVER YOU USE GOD OR JESUS AS A CURSE WORD, YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE 3RD COMMANDMENT! (remember the one with the judgment attached)

The sad thing is most people today (including Christians) don’t know they are doing anything wrong. John Wesley gives us 5 ways we violate this 3rd commandment

- First, By hypocrisy, making profession of God's name, but not living up to that profession.
- Secondly, By covenant breaking. If we make promises to God, and perform not to the Lord our vows, we take his name in vain.
- Thirdly, By rash swearing, mentioning the name of God, or any of his attributes, in the form of an oath, without any just occasion for it, but to no purpose, or to no good purpose.
- Fourthly, By false swearing, which some think is chiefly intended in the letter of the commandment.
- Fifthly, By using the name of God lightly and carelessly.

### Turn with me to Leviticus 24:10-16

<sup>10</sup> Now the son of an Israelite mother and an Egyptian father went out among the Israelites, and a fight broke out in the camp between him and an Israelite.

<sup>11</sup> The son of the Israelite woman blasphemed **the Name** with a curse; so they brought him to Moses. (His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri the Danite.)

<sup>12</sup> They put him in custody until the will of the LORD should be made clear to them.

<sup>13</sup> **Then the LORD said to Moses:**

<sup>14</sup> "Take the blasphemer outside the camp. All those who heard him are to lay their hands on his head, and the entire assembly is to stone him.

<sup>15</sup> Say to the Israelites: 'If anyone curses his God, he will be held responsible;

<sup>16</sup> anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death. (NIV)

The punishment was death!!

You see, the knowledge of the personal name of God, Yahweh, was the greatest gift God entrusted to Israel. How? By revealing Himself at Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Torah (Law). The law was both a grace and a duty; it was to be kept, of course, but it was a gift, a privilege, and not a burden. God protected

His name by giving this commandment, but sadly it is the most abused.

### ***HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....***

In 300 BC, pious Jews were reluctant to even write or pronounce the divine name “*Yahweh*”. When the scriptures were read in the temple service the word *Adonai* “my Lord” was used instead of Yahweh. In fact, Jewish people today will not even write the sacred name - It is written G-D so as not to offend God.

How would they feel today after 5 minutes of watching TV or going to see a PG-13 movie? I find it offensive that the TV and radio “beep” out the “F” word, but use the Lord’s name as a curse. When I am at work I hear it, my heart grieves inside. I couldn’t imagine paying \$15-20 for a movie ticket to hear them trash Jesus’ name!

- The name who is above all names,
- The name of Jesus who gave his life, took my sin and shame to the cross so I wouldn’t have to.
- The name who gives us a purpose in life, a hope, and a reason to live.
- The name who gives us a promise that just as He arose from the grave so will we.
- The name who gives eternal life.
- The name of Jesus who loves me unconditionally just as I am!

<sup>6</sup> He has made us his Kingdom and his priests who serve before God his Father. Give to him everlasting glory! He rules forever and ever! Amen!

<sup>7</sup> Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him--even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the earth will weep because of him. Yes! Amen!

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega--the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come, the Almighty One."

Rev 1:6-8 (NLT)

*What do you think the devil is doing when God’s children are watching those movies? Satan is trashing, mocking and having a field day accusing us. This hurts Jesus! Why? Because we chose to see the movie! By remaining in that theater you are telling God it’s OK to trash your name!*

Pastor said to me the other day while I was awaiting surgery “how come you never hear the other religions curse their god - like “Oh for Buda’s sake“, or for “Mohammad’s sake what’s wrong with you” - or “I can’t find my goddess dam keys” WHY? For we worship the ONE TRUE GOD! Even the atheists, the

Wicca's, and all the other heathens of the world use the Lord's name in vain -  
SHOULD WE???

So what about the other cursing that comes out of people's mouths? Can we say  
"oh it's just a figure of speech - I am not hurting anybody!" -  
**Check this out ----->**

### **SPONGEBOB - "Sailor Mouth"**

These clips were funny, very sad but very true!

If you are a Christian, you are to act different , speak different, and live different -  
WHY? Because this is the evidence of salvation, the fruit of the Spirit!

How can we be a witness to the world if we act, speak and live just like them?

Take an egg for example - crack it and you see the yoke and the egg white -  
together in the same shell but very different. Take a fork mix the two together  
what do you have? scrambled eggs - now you can't tell the difference. This what  
happens when we let the fork (world) get inside our lives!

Scripture is very clear on this:

<sup>24</sup> You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's  
likeness--righteous, holy, and true.

### ***HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....***

<sup>29</sup> Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so  
that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

<sup>30</sup> And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is  
the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day  
of redemption. Eph 4:29-30 (NLT)

<sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but  
rather thanksgiving. Eph 5:4 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.  
Prov 15:4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.  
Psalm 141:3 (NIV)

Listen to what Jesus told the Pharisee's then, and a warning to us today!

<sup>33</sup> "A tree is identified by its fruit. Make a tree good, and its fruit will be good. Make a

tree bad, and its fruit will be bad.

<sup>34</sup> You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say.

<sup>35</sup> A good person produces good words from a good heart, and an evil person produces evil words from an evil heart.

<sup>36</sup> And I tell you this, that you must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak.

<sup>37</sup> The words you say now reflect your fate then; either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned." Matt 12:33-37 (NLT)

### ***HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....***

We have a morning production meeting every morning at my job. Well this one morning a consultant who has been with us since March came into our meeting and interrupted our boss, took over the floor and proceeded to bark out command to all of us planners. My boss was humiliated and upset and so was I. After we were released I had said to the group "I have met a lot of \*&^^\$# in my 16 years in planning, but this guy takes the cake"! Well, the place went dead silent and one of the girls said "are you OK? I have never heard you say a bad word before" I said "your right, I am sorry - you see, we all make mistakes, even one who is a man of God - that is why Jesus came for me" I ask the Lord to forgive me in the spirit and I walked away asking Jesus to teach me something from this.

He said "my child, your words are a witness to the world and to me"

Listen to what James has to say about our language:

<sup>5</sup> So also, the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

<sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness that can ruin your whole life. It can turn the entire course of your life into a blazing flame of destruction, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame all kinds of animals and birds and reptiles and fish,

<sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is an uncontrollable evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it breaks out into curses against those who have been made in the image of God.

<sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! James 3:5-10 (NLT)

### ***HOW WILL OUR WORDS WITNESS TO THE WORLD....***

In Closing:

Jerome who was one of the early church exegetes who is known as the

translator of the Latin Vulgate says this “

“The sword kills the body, but the tongue kills the soul. The tongue knows no moderation - either it is a great good or it is a great evil. It is a great good when it acknowledges that Christ is God, and a great evil when it denies that. Let no one deceive himself into thinking that he has never sinned, for if I have sinned, it is with my tongue. What more monstrous sin is there than blasphemy against God? The devil did not fall because he committed theft, murder, or adultery; he fell because of his tongue“. He said: “ I will scale the heavens; above the stars I will set my throne, I will be like the Most High”.