

Ascending The Mountain

Session 3: Biblical Names | Word Study

Intro Questions:

- What names do you find fascinating, and why?
- In your culture, what do you think is the importance of names in the Bible?

The tool that we are using today is called a “word study.” Word studies are helpful in encountering God because they help us understand the heart beyond the authors of Scripture and, greater, the heart of God.

Scripture:

Read Genesis 3:20, Genesis 4:25, and Genesis 5:29.

- Based on these verses, what is the importance of names in the Bible?

Name is identity. It is who someone is, down to the character at the core of their heart, who they really are. And not just their character, but their identity in relation to the world around them. (When God calls things by name in Genesis, He is assigning identity to them in relation to the world around them, their purpose in the world)

Read Gen 11:1-9

- What do you think it meant that the people wanted to “make a name” for themselves?
- What identity were they trying to make for themselves?

They wanted to make an identity for themselves by following their own desires. It was God’s desire for mankind to “fill the land” and tend to it. Instead of filling the land outward, they are building their city upward. God’s name and identity for mankind was for them to partner in filling the land around them, but they wanted to make a name for themselves and keep to themselves.

Read Genesis 12:1-3. (It is important to note that this story is intentionally right next to the Tower of Babel)

- What’s different between here and the Tower of Babel?
- What do you think it means for God to give someone a name?

Read Matthew 1:21

- What is Jesus’s “identity” according to His name?

Read John 5:43

- What does Jesus mean when He says that someone else claiming to be the Messiah is coming in their own name?
- What does it mean that Jesus comes in the Father’s name?

When people walk apart from God's will, they are choosing to establish a name and identity for themselves. When Jesus says He comes in the name of His Father, He is saying that He is coming in the complete embodiment of the character and identity of the Father.

Read Colossians 3:17

- What does it mean to do things in the name of Jesus?

Just as Jesus came in the name of His Father by being the embodiment of Him, we are called to do all things in the name of Jesus and being the embodiment of Him. When we do all things in the name of Jesus, we are aligning ourselves completely with His will and choosing to allow Him to establish our ways.

Reflection:

- Where have you tried to make a name/identity for yourself?
- Spend time in prayer. Repent where necessary for making a name/identity for yourself. Listen and ask God "What name and identity do you want to give me?"