



Sermon Notes

Main Points & Verses

Application

Key Themes & Additional Insights

“I will be with you...”

In Exodus 3, Moses is being prepared to move forward into a new life, a new identity, a new purpose. Initially his question and focus is primarily about himself, “who am I to go to Pharaoh?” But God simply ignores Moses’ question and proclaims to him: “I will be with you.” In a sense, God is saying – it doesn’t matter so much who you are, what matters is who I am and that I will be with you. The point is, if you really know who God is and you truly believe that He is with you, you will be ready to face anything. You will be ready to move forward.

Getting a “handle” on the reality of God

Moses is overwhelmed. God will be with him. Great! But who exactly or what exactly is God anyway? How do you even begin to get a “handle” on the reality of God? This is now the single most important issue in Moses’ life. (Ours too!) And this is the point of the revelation of the name of God in Exodus 3. The name of God is more than a name. It is a way of understanding and connecting with the reality of God. Through the revelation of His name, God shows us what is essential for us to understand and believe when we think about God, and when we pray, worship and trust. So what does God reveal in the meaning of His name?

The two amazing dimensions of who God is

There are two dimensions to the revelation of God’s name. The first is the great “I AM.” (Ex 3:13-14) This dimension speaks of God’s awesome power & glory and what theologians call God’s “transcendence.” This means that God is infinitely beyond us or anything else in this created world. And He always will be! The second dimension revealed in God’s name is that he is involved with imperfect people at ground level in real time and history. God says “The God of your fathers-- the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob-- has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.” (Ex 3:15). This dimension speaks of God’s closeness, grace, love and involvement in our lives. Theologians call this God’s “immanence.”

The name of the “LORD” puts things together for us

The name of the LORD brings together these two huge and amazing dimensions of the reality of God. By revealing His name to Moses in the way He did, God is giving us a “handle” on what we are to keep in mind when we call on Him, worship Him, trust in Him, and follow Him. Every time you call on the name of the LORD, you are calling on the God who is infinite, glorious, powerful AND present, caring, close & gracious. This is the God who promises - “I will be with you!”

LORD vs. Lord

In the Bible, the word “Lord” is a title of honor. But often you will see it spelled in all caps: LORD. When you see this it means that the personal name of God, which was revealed to Moses, is being used. This is not the same as the title “Lord.” LORD in all caps is our English Bible way of spelling the personal name of God – which in the Hebrew is the word “Yahwey”. Yahwey is God’s revealed name. It comes from the word which means “I AM”. This personal name for God is used over 2600 times in the Old Testament alone. It is a very important “code” word in the Bible which alerts us to think back to Exodus 3 and remember the meaning of God’s name as shown to Moses. When you know this, verses will come alive for you. For example: 1 Samuel 17:45; Psalm 20:7 & 148:13; Prov 18:10.

Jesus is LORD

All of this points forward to Jesus in the most profound way. Jesus was the great “I AM” (God as revealed in the Old Testament) in human flesh! (See John 8:56-59). Jesus is the glorious, almighty, eternal, creator God – coming down to street level in love, grace, compassion and salvation. And Jesus is risen and He is LORD – and He is with you. This is the gospel. Jesus literally means: Yahwey is salvation! So when we pray, worship or trust in the name of Jesus, what are we to keep in mind? Take all the truth of the name of God revealed to Moses and include it in your heart whenever you hear or use the name of Jesus.

Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

1. What is one thing the Lord spoke to you specifically about through the sermon this week?

2. Read Exodus 3:11-21

Moses makes several objections to the call of the Lord to go to Egypt. What is the nature of the objection in verse 11?

How does God deal with this (vs. 12)?

Read vs. 13 again. Why did Moses anticipate that the Israelites would ask him this question? (What is his name?)

How might this relate to the question posed earlier by the fighting Hebrews who asked, "Who made you ruler and judge over us?" What is Moses struggling with?

How did God deal with Moses (vs. 13-22)?

Digging Deeper

1. In ancient times, someone's name expressed his character- his identity. Based on this, make observations about the Lord from Exodus 3:13-15

2. How we view God determines everything. What is your perception of the Lord? How was this perception formed? How has your childhood, your past experiences, your study of God's word or your current Christian experience shaped how you view God?

3. These are a few of the many references to "the name of the LORD" in the Old Testament::

1 Samuel 17:45 David said to the philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Psalms 113:1 Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

Psalms 116:4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me!"

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Psalms 102:15 The nations will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.

Psalms 102:21 So the name of the LORD will be declared in Zion and his praise in Jerusalem

How might these scriptures change the way you pray? How could you put this into practice this week in your life?