

S. M. Jr 12, 1975 A.M.

THE MATCHLESS NAME

Phil. 2:9-11

INTRODUCTION:

What's in a name? Almost everything! A name stands for something - for personal character, for honor, for loyalty. What does your name stand for?

There are a variety of reasons why a name is given to a child. Sometimes it is because of family connections. And people may want to perpetuate the name. Sometimes it is because of a dear loved one. Now, you may wonder how you got your name and why you have such a name.

With association of some particular place that a person has greatly admired. Florence Nightengale was named after the city of her birth. There are countless baby girls that in turn have been named Florence.

It may be because people like the sound of a name.

There are times when character is involved and they hope that the baby will develop according to the name that is bestowed upon him.

The Scriptures tell us that a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." Prov. 22:1.

Many years ago a bank went broke in (South Carolina). The directors met and tried to re-organize. They selected as President a farmer. When they went out to visit him - he told them that he couldn't accept that. He did not have

Greatest Stoop In The World

Several years ago the mayor of Boston let his beard grow for days, put on a suit of old clothes, and went out to see how "the other half of the world lives." He scouted through the slums of the city, and went for a night's lodging in a very cheap boarding house. He was told to chop wood for his bed and a breakfast of thin oatmeal with skimmed milk.

He had never used an axe in his life and was having a hard time earning his bed and board. Finally a young man stepped up and said, "Give it here, mister. You don't know how to swing an axe."

When the young man had finished, the Mayor said, "Here's my card, son. Call on me at four this afternoon, and I'll see that you get a job."

The young man looked at the card and said to himself, "Poor man, he's crazy. Thinks he's the mayor." Nevertheless curiosity got the better of him, and at four he was ushered into the mayor's office. He was given the job as promised with the exhorta-

tion, "Now, keep still, and don't tell anybody about this."

But the young man did tell, and the city newspapers carried the headline, "THE GREATEST SOCIAL STOOP IN THE WORLD."

Yet that "stoop" is pallid, insipid, when compared with the stoop our blessed Lord accomplished when He humbled Himself to become our Savior. His, indeed, is the greatest stoop in all the world.

"And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross" (Philippians 2:8).

—Stuart P. Garver
East Stroudsburg, Pa.

a great deal of money. They replied, but you are something that is worth far more than money. You have a good name.

If you have a good name - cherish it. Hold it high. Let no person drag it down into the mire. Live up to your name.

Now in the story of the nativity, we are brought face to face with the problem of naming the child. What name could possibly be selected that would be appropriate for a baby - whom through the ages, they had long waited. One cannot help but wonder what the choice might have been. Had it been left up to Joseph and Mary, to make the decision.

Now the problem was resolved by divine intervention.

The angel Gabriel came down and said, "thou shall call him Jesus". Both to Joseph and to Mary. These separate but repeated revelations served to stress the fact that God made the choice.

Now while the name Jesus is rarely bestowed upon children in our Western country today, this is largely because we hallow it with associations that are sacred.

Many Jewish lads were named because it was familiar and popular. The family of the high priest. We discover that Barabbas was the sir name of one Jesus. Who because a famous robber and cheater.

And one day he was preferred above Jesus who was sir named the Christ.

Paul had a trusted friend and helper - Jesus Justice.

The father of Elymas, the sourcer, of whom we read in Acts was named Jesus. And there were many others that were named Jesus. But the name chosen for the babe was not hitherto unknown, but was rather popular. But when the incarnation took place, and the son of God came down to man, the name was chosen by God. And he was given and commanded to be given the name Jesus.

When I think about this name that is above every name, I think of what William Hunter wrote --

- Sweetest name in Saraf's song
- Sweetest name on mortal tongue
- Sweetest carol every sung
- Jesus, blessed Jesus.

Take that name from the word of God and you destroy the Bible. You take that name from human history and it is a tale that has been told without fullness. You take that name from the human heart and love dies. You take that name from the world, and the world is without hope. You take it from the ministry, and the preacher is without a message. You take it from the church, and the church is without a mission. You take the name from the kingdom, and the kingdom is without a king. His name is above every name. That at his name every knee shall bow and of things in Heaven and things in earth. Things that are under the earth. And every tongue should confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Now why was this name chosen and why was this name so popular.

I. First, of all - his name means sacrifice. It is a sacrificial name. Now sacrifice is one of the most beautiful words in the language of the world. It includes goodness, mercifulness, and nobleness. The angel said, Matt. 1:21, she

shall bring forth a son and thou shall call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins.

Isa. 53:5 - His name means captain of salvation. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

John 1:29 - He is the sacrificial lamb of God. Which taketh away the sin of the world.

The Scriptures are full of the references to Jesus as God's sacrifice upon the altar of the world for the redemption of man's sin.

I Peter 1:18-19 - For as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold - but with the precious blood of Christ, as of lamb without blemish and without spot. The Scriptures tell us that the redeemed has been accomplished by his blood that that every kindred and tongue, people and nation, and has made us unto our God kings and priests. Rev. 5:9-10.

Heb. 2:9 - Jesus was made a little lower than angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

So Jesus has sacrificed all for us. He died for our sins. He suffered painfully. He sweat drops of blood in the garden of Gethsemane. They spat upon him, whipped him with cords, put a crown of thorns upon him, he walked the cobblestone streets. They layed a heavy cross on him. They drove the spikes through his hands and his feet. His lips were parched. They thrust a spear in his side. And out flowed water and blood. He died with a broken heart. And that is the story.

Jesus paid it all. All to him I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.

That, my friend, is what Jesus did for us. That is why his name is honey to the mouth, music to the ear, and gladness to the heart. He is the lily of the valley because of the sacrifice for our sins.

Why is this name so popular. In this history of the Israelites, the Hebrew name for Jesus which was Joshua, had a rich association in the Old Testament with Joshua who succeeds Moses. And led them into the promised land of Canaan. He became the commander in chief of their army. He brought them out of the dessert into a land of milk and honey. He was the captain who led them to victory after victory.

When this baby was born in Bethlehem he was destined to become the captain of our salvation. The commander in chief of a mighty army of people. It was fitting that he should be called Jesus.

Another famous Joshua, or Jesus, in Hebrew history - was the one after many years of captivity in Babylon - that Jeshua, the high priest, who rebuilt the temple. And restored the worship of Jehovah - he was a type and a fore-runner of the great high priest who was to come. And so this great high priest is going to bring men out of the captivity of sin - back into fellowship with God. So the real meaning of Jesus and Joshua is Jehovah is salvation. His name, Jesus, shall be called because he shall save his people from their sins.

If ever a child was given a name and worthily set forth his character, his mission in life - it was this one. We shall never understand all the mission of Jesus. But when the song of Zechariah = Chapter 1 of Luke, he prophesied that he

would redeem his people. That he had been raised up as the horn of salvation. And there was need for a saviour - and the promise of God supplied that need. Jesus is the one. God sent his son into the world - not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

That, my friend, is why and what Jesus did for us. A little boy was walking with his father one evening. He happened to see a bright golden star shining in a window. The little fellow asked what it meant. The father explained that in that home, a son had gone to war. And that son had been killed in battle. The father had placed this star there in his memory. They walked a little farther and they saw two bright stars shining in a window. The boy asked what that meant. The father explained that two fine boys from that home had given their lives for their country. As they walked on further, the boy pointed up to the sky, and he said - there is the evening star, Daddy. I know what that star means - that star means that God had a son and he gave his son for us.

This is the story of the cross. This is what God did for us. See from his head, his hands, his feet - sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did ever such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.

II. AN EXALTED NAME

It is not only a sacrificial name. But it is matchless because it is exalted. God has highly exalted him.

Long ago, Isaiah said, his name shall be called wonderful. Counsellor, the mighty God - the everlasting father, the prince of peace, of the increase of

his government in peace, there shall be no end. 9:6-7.

The Scriptures also tell us that in Jesus, the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled. Who had said, they shall call his name Immanuel - which is God with us.

Throughout history there have been thrilling names - The name of Abraham, Moses, Solomon, David, Isaiah, Daniel, Peter, James, John, Milton, Robert E. Lee, George Washington, Woodrow Wilson, Henry Ward Beecher, George Truitt, Caesar, Napoleon, Churchill - what mighty names through history that have had influence.

Yet, as great as they are, none of these names is so great as to equal the name of Jesus. None can be compared because Jesus stands alone, unique, supreme.

Napoleon said, I know men. And I tell you that Jesus is not a man.

Charles Lamb once said if there were a gathering of the most outstanding men of literature, and Shakespeare were to walk in - they would all rise to do him honor. But if Jesus Christ walked into that room, they would all immediately fall down upon their knees.

A sweet and tender as the word Mother is, there is a word that is more beautiful. As beautiful as the name wife, or husband, son or daughter. There is no name as sweet as the Galilean who died on the cross - buried, and arose again. His was exalted.

We date our letters by his name. Every check bears his name. We measure time by Jesus. We look at the clock, the calendar, we are reminded of his birth.

Wherefore, God hath high exalted him.

III. AN ALL POWERFUL NAME

Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord. This means that Jesus reigns. He rules. He governs - he controls. At the very mention of his name angels fall prostrate at his feet. Angels in Heaven fall at his name. The archangels sing praise to his name. Below the earth, the devils flee at the mention of his all conquering name. And those that are tormented, win victory at his touch. He is the Lord of Lords and king of kings. Every man is destined to bow to his name and the kingdoms of this earth are destined to become the kingdoms of God. The glorious prophesy of all the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth - as the waters cover the sea, will some day be fulfilled. Jesus reigns. He must reign. He will reign until the last enemy has been put under his feet. As Watts says, Jesus shall reign where ever the sun doth his successive journeys run.

Billy Sunday used to say people are going to Hell by the car loads. And many would like to know how many will be saved and how many will be lost.

Once there was a person who said, if God were to offer the same proposition that he offered to Abraham long ago - I wonder - no one would be able to find five righteous men in that town.

Sometimes I wonder whether there are more people lost than saved. And then I hear Jesus say, what is that to thee. Follow thou me.

This world is a dismal picture. Certainly the devil is powerful. But my friends, I cannot believe that he is more powerful than Jesus. There is a day of judgement coming when every man shall give an account unto God for the deeds done

in the flesh. And the Bible says, every knee shall bow and that every tongue shall confess.

In Matt. 25 - He told us that he was going to say to his sheep, come on one side. Come ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you. I was hungry and you gave me meat. I was thirsty, you gave me drink. I was sick, you visited me. I was in prison, you came unto me. V. 34-36.

Then he is going to say to the goats - depart from me. Ye cursed - into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Then it is going to be everlastingly too late. Now the saddest thing I can imagine is to stand in the judgement seat and hear Jesus have to say this to some person who has had the opportunity to accept him. And who has gone on rejecting him.

Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the world.

It is this knowledge that makes the name of Jesus so infinitely sweet. And precious to millions throughout the world. In all ages, men have risen and blessed the name of Jesus because it has meant life and salvation in their experience.

Bernard said, the name of Jesus is honey in the mouth. Melody in the ear and joy in the heart.

The Gospel has centered upon the proclamation of the name of Jesus.

There have been people upon their sick beds with pain and sorrow - and in lonely watches of the night. And the name of Jesus has been breathed, and has brought calm and peace of mind to their soul. The aged have found in it

the one sufficient comfort. In the prime of life, men have come under the power and have been blessed and fortified. Young people, men and women, boys and girls have responded to it's charm and have uttered it with devotion and have surrendered their lives to that name. Little children have said that name and have sweetly mentioned it in their prayers before putting their heads upon their pillows. Was there ever such a name so universally loved and so cherished through the ages.

The name of Jesus has fallen from the lips of those who have been down in the mire - in the fowlness of sin and it has brought cleansing power and regeneration, and renewal to their minds and hearts.

Spurgeon has said, this charming name of Jesus is a jewel from the casket of Heaven. It comes to us as an apple of Gold. And it is attended by the exposition which places it in a basket of silver. The name is precious as the mercy seat. And over it burns the light of divine glory. So that we might not stumble at it. It lets us know God in our hearts. Why he sent him. And what he meant him to do in this world. We cannot utter the name of Jesus without proclaiming his mission. The name of Jesus bridges over the gulf. It transforms our poor lives. It translates our language into something that is clean. It reaches way down into the human heart where the true feelings lie buried. We have learned from it that there is a charm and a power.

Week by week in countless places of worship - the name of Jesus is breathed in prayer. It is sung in hymns. It is preached in sermons. And from cathedrals and huts in the jungle, men and women go forth week after week, worshipping God through the name of Jesus.

and thanksgiving. When we say grace at the table, when we utter a prayer in our homes. In the palace of the king, in the humble cottage - the name of Jesus is precious. It is proclaimed by the great preachers of the land.

It is the last word to fall from the lips of martyrs. It can never be destroyed. There is no power in the world greater than the power of the name of Jesus. The saints of the redeemed in Heaven, are there because of the name of Jesus. And they sing the praises of that name - and when we join them in glory, we will be with them and it will be the sweetest name to know and to pronounce that name in glory.

His name was written on his cross - Jesus of Nazareth. King of the Jews.
There he accomplished your salvation.

I bring you good news. Jesus is alive. And you today are here and able to worship and to hear God's word no matter how far in sin you have gone. Jesus can heal you - he has the power to make you what you ought to be.

A sailor on the restless sea was cast out into the water. He grabbed the plank and the waves swept over him and he rode on the waves, and at last was dashed on the shore. A minister visited him and asked him if he were a Christian. The sailor replied, No I am not a Christian, I have never been able to understand the meaning of salvation. It is too deep for me. Then the minister said, what happened to you when you were thrown over board. He explained, I grabbed an old wooden plank. The minister said, well, that's it. Jesus is a mighty good plank in the midst of the ocean of life. He will never let you go. Twenty years later the minister met that old sailor, and the sailor said, I still have hold of the plank and it bears. It does bear, my friends. Jesus will never fail you. As the poet said, I know of a land that is sunk in shame, of hearts that faint and tire,

but I know a name, a name, a name. That can set that land on fire.

I know of a life all steep in sin
That no man's art can cure
But I know a name, a name, a name
That can make that life all pure.

I know of a soul that is lost to God
Bowed down by things of earth
But I know of a name, a name, a name
That can give that soul new birth.

So listen my heart an angel speaks
To save my life from dross
Christ, Jesus is the name, the name
He saves by way of the cross.

More than a century ago Jenny Lind gave a farewell concert to the people of America in Washington - the President, both houses of congress, the cabinet, members of the army and navy. And many governors, and she was called to sing time and time again. Finally it became necessary for her to sing her farewell number. And there was an ovation - she glanced up, and she saw way up above the audience a lone figure. A man whose heart broke - to give his song to the world. And that man was John Howard Payne. She began singing his beautiful song -

Though through pleasures filled palaces

We may run

Be it ever so humble

There is no place like home.

It was whispered through the audience that John Howard Paine sat above that vast audience. Many of the people wept. The news reached the President and we are told that there were tears in his eyes as he and the rest of the audience stood to their feet in honor of him whose heart broke to give his song to the world.

Now I don't know whether that story was true or not, but I do know that while there are mighty names of people on this earth, there has been one name that has been glorified by God. Whose name is above every name. He came and suffered, bled, and died - and has gone to prepare a home for us and he looks down upon us from above today. In honoring that name, of the greatest and the mightiest on earth, I want us today to sing - All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name. Let angles prostrate fall - bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.