

Lesson 3

GOD'S NAME-ADORABLE NAME



Once, Jesus taught His disciples to pray. It begins like this: "Our, Father in heaven, holy be your name." Jesus makes it clear through this prayer that we must use the name of God with respect and veneration. The second commandment of God is this: "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God in vain."

God's Name in the Old Testament

We have to understand the usage 'Name of God' in the background of the Old Testament. When God appeared in the thorny bush, Moses asked God to reveal His name. But God does not reveal His name clearly. Instead He said "**I AM WHO I AM**" (Ex. 3:13-14). A particular name cannot contain God as He is. Since He is God, He cannot be limited to the frame of a particular name.

God's name is God's presence itself. To know the name means to know the person. God speaks through the prophet: "**For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations**" (Mal. 1:11). The Israelites did not use in their conversation, the term 'Yahweh' which refers to God. They thought it as a violation of the commandment. Calling the name of a person also points to one's authority over that person. Man has no authority over God. We can only worship Him.

God's Name in the New Testament

Once Jesus prayed like this: "Father glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven. "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again" (Jn. 12:28). Jesus gave great importance to the adorable nature of God's name. Jesus used the term 'Abba', a simple and touching word, whenever He addressed His Father. This term is used by children in Israel to address their fathers.

Just as the name of God is holy, the name of Jesus, the Son of God, is also holy. Jesus' name has salvific power. Hence Jesus thought like this: "If you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you" (Jn. 16:23). The apostle Peter healed a lame person saying: "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." (Acts 3:6). On another occasion, St. Peter preached like this: "There is salvation in no one else, for, there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). Hence, we must glorify God's name. The Holy Bible teaches us that when we offer praise to His name, we are praising God Himself.

The Usage of God's Name

We must use God's name with respect when we take oaths or true statements. We may have to use the name of God. In courts and before the authorities, people may have to do the same. When we take up great responsibilities also we have to take the oath in God's name. On all such occasions, we must utter God's holy name with due respect befitting God.

Swearing and bearing false witness are wicked sins. When we speak about divine things, we have to use words of respect. We should never use words of mockery, condemnation, irreverence etc. in connection with God. They are blasphemous sins. Questioning God's providence and accusing God as merciless and unjust are also serious sins against this commandment.

Some people utter words of curse when they get angry. They are violating the second commandment. Cursing ones own fellow beings created in God's image is teasing God Himself. We have to keep ourselves away from bad words, false statements, indecent conversation etc. Our tongues are to be used to glorify God. The second commandment demands us to use our tongues for the glory of God and edification of others. Blasphemy and impure talks are sins against this commandment.

Respect the Holy

We must speak about holy Virgin Mary and other saints with respect. These are persons favourite to God. We should respect persons, places and objects dedicated to God. Priests and religious are persons dedicated to God. Hence, we have to respect them. Churches, pilgrim centers and shrines are places dedicated to the worship of God and veneration of saints. We must behave there respectfully suiting their holiness. The altar for the Holy Mass, the objects of sacrifice, the objects used in the sacraments etc. must be handled in a holy manner. The Bible containing the life-giving Word of God must be used with due respect. When we take the Holy Bible, use it and replace it, we have to do them with proper care and respect. Ill treating the persons dedicated to God, improper behavior at the holy places, making holy things unholy are sins against the second commandment.

Christian Names

The second commandment also reminds us about the importance of Christian name and its use. We see God giving suitable names to persons who are specially chosen by Him. God gives Abram the name 'Abraham' (Gen. 17:5). Jacob the name 'Israel' (Gen. 32:28). Similar is the case with us. In baptism, when we become the children of God, God gives us a new name, the baptismal name. It is given in the name of the Holy Trinity.

Usually, in baptism, we are given the names of Saints who have glorified God. **Certain names refer to God's goodness or divine mysteries. This name helps us to imitate their model and to seek their intercession. Hence, we must continue to use the baptismal name.** We must try to be proud about it and to live according to its spirit. The Church exhorts that, parents, God-parents and the priests should take care not to give names unsuitable to Christian Spirit (CCC-2156).

The second commandment reminds us to show reverence to God's name on all occasions in our daily life. We must be ready to give praise, glory and reverence to the adorable name of God. At all times, God's praise should fill our hearts. With grateful hearts, we must thank the Lord for His infinite mercy and graces. Thus God's name will be made holy in our lives.

Let us Pray

O Lord our God, give us the grace to understand and experience the power of your holy name.

Read the Word of God and Narrate

Acts 3:1-10

Word of God for our Guidance

“Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you”
(Jn. 16:23).

Let us Do

I will read the biography of my patron saint.

My Resolution

I will call upon the Holy name of Jesus in all my needs.

Find out the Answer

1. What does the Old Testament mean by the term 'God's name'?
2. How did Jesus address God?
3. The name of 'Jesus is great' Explain.
4. What are the violations of the second commandments?
5. Make clear what the second commandment reminds us?