

Title: You Shall Call His Name Jesus

Object: Book on the meaning of names

S Scripture: The angel said to Mary, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.” (Luke 1:30-31)

One of the most exciting times in any couple's life is when they find out that they are going to have a baby. There are many things that must be done to prepare for the birth of a new baby, but none is more important than choosing a name for the baby. A baby's name is chosen very carefully because the baby will live with that name for the rest of his or her life.

When a couple is choosing a name for their baby, they will sometimes go to a bookstore or a library and get a book like this one that I have this morning. It has thousands of names from which to choose. Not only that, but many names have a special meaning and a book like this will tell you what those names mean. I looked up a few popular names to see what they mean.

S Show names and their meanings

When Mary and Joseph found out that they were going to have a baby, they didn't go to the bookstore and get a book to help them choose a name for Mary's baby. In fact, they didn't choose the baby's name at all! God chose it for them! God sent an angel to tell Mary what to name her baby. The angel said to Mary, **S** “You will have a son, and you will call his name Jesus.” You see, the name Jesus means “the Lord saves.” Was it important for Mary's baby to be named Jesus? Yes it

was, because the Bible tells us that there is no other name that can save us from our sin. Let me read, from the Bible, the very Word of God, “*And there is salvation in no one else (Jesus); for there is no other name (Jesus) under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*” (Acts 4:12)

Dear Father, thank You for sending Your Son. During this season when we celebrate Jesus’ birth, help us to remember that there is salvation in His name. In the power of Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

-S- Traitor - Betrayer

Sermon #74

The name traitor or betrayer or brings to mind ugly images in any culture throughout history. History is full of stories of those who betrayed their people and country. Every American student learned of Benedict Arnold the traitor in the American Revolution. He offered to surrender the key fort at West Point to the British for money. The courier between Arnold and the British was captured with their agreement in writing and the plot was uncovered. He deserted to the British and fought against his own countrymen.

During World War II “Tokyo Rose” spewed Japanese propaganda over the radio waves in an effort to discourage American soldiers and encourage them to desert. Her real name was Iva D’Aquino a graduate of UCLA. After the war she was convicted of treason and spent six years in prison. President Gerald Ford pardoned her in 1977.

Jane Fonda during the height of the Vietnam War in 1972 traveled to North Vietnam sided with them, talked down to American prisoners of war (POWs) and called America criminals and liars.

Recently in 2009 Nidal Hasan, U.S. Army Major, went on a shooting spree murdering 15 fellow soldiers and wounding 30. He shot his unarmed fellow soldiers in the name of Allah. He shed his uniform and attacked dressed in Muslim garb and shouting “Allah Ackbar.”

The bible also records many traitors. Absalom betrayed his father, David. Sheba, who led a revolt of the northern tribes soon after Absalom’s revolt was crushed.

Jeroboam led a revolt against Solomon and divided Israel into two kingdoms Israel and Judah. Athaliah, Israel's only queen seized the throne after the death of her son, King Ahaziah. Hoshea murdered King Pekah and became the last king of Judah. There are many more and most we do not remember. But, the most notorious traitor was Judas Iscariot.

As we just saw traitors come from those nearest to those they betray. Judas was one of the inner twelve and spent three years being taught by and shown love by Jesus, the Messiah sent by God. The story of Judas illustrates the depths of evil the human heart is capable of. Judas is remembered in history and will be remembered until the return of Christ and then he will be remembered no more. He is remembered, but not as he had hoped to be remembered. Judas is listed last in every New Testament list of the apostles, except in Acts where his name is not mentioned at all. I can imagine the gospel writers would have preferred not to write the name of the one who betrayed Jesus. They wrote of Judas because of historical truth and because of what his betrayal teaches believers. His name Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot reveals that he was a "man from Kerioth." The village of Kerioth is in Judea south of Hebron. This means that Judas would have been the only one of the twelve who was not a Galilean. The Bible does not tell us where, when and what the circumstances were when Jesus and Judas met. Did the fact that Judas was not Galilean make it easier for him to be a traitor and hide his true motives? Even though he was not Galilean the other disciples trusted him; they made him treasurer and none suspected him even in the upper room when Jesus announced, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." (John 13:21) We can surmise from the scriptures that Judas, like many Jews, hoped Jesus was a military Messiah that would overthrow the Romans. Judas was also banking on Jesus coming into power and as one of the twelve he would be given a position

of power and authority. Judas became increasingly disillusioned with Jesus as time went on and there was no evidence that Jesus had any intentions of becoming a political leader. The proverbial “last straw” may have come a few days earlier when Mary the sister of Lazarus and Martha anointed Jesus with the expensive nard oil and he lost the opportunity to steal from the money it would have brought if it had been sold for a years wages.

Our scripture passage this morning verses 18 to 30 focuses on Judas the traitor and betrayer. It contrasts him with the other eleven disciples who receive eternal blessing. We can divide this passage into four themes: Treachery Anticipated, Treason Announced, Twelve Astonished and Traitor Addressed.

Treachery Anticipated

Jesus wanted to make sure when Judas’ treachery was revealed and his act of betrayal resulted in Jesus’ arrest and death that He was not taken by surprise, but knew this would have to happen. Jesus tells His disciples, ¹⁸“I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is that the Scripture (Old Testament) may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’”* Here Jesus quoted King David, “*Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*” (Psalms 41:9) David lamented his betrayal by someone close to him. King David’s experience pointed to the coming betrayal of the Messiah. As God, Jesus had known all along whom His betrayer was, so He says, “I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen.” Then after quoting David He goes on to explain why He is telling them this at this time. In verse 19 we read, “From now on I am telling you before *it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He (the Messiah).*” By Jesus revealing to His disciples what was to happen in the future it was evidence of His divine nature and

one proof that He was indeed the Messiah. Is this not true for us today? By the Bible, the inspired words of God telling His chosen of not only what has happened but what will happen it is one proof of many that Jesus is the Christ. There have been predictions in the Bible that have come true since it was written two thousand years ago. This gives us assurance that those things predicted and those that have yet to happen will happen as God has said. Nothing took Jesus by surprise – not John’s arrest and execution, not Nicodemus’ coming in the night and certainly not the betrayal by Judas. So, we know that Jesus specifically chose Judas so “that the Scripture may be fulfilled.” John recorded what Jesus had told the disciples earlier so that when the Holy Spirit was given to them after His resurrection they would remember and know. Jesus speaking of the disciples to God the Father, “While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.” (John 17:12) Judas was the “son of perdition” and would fulfill the purpose of God by betraying Jesus.

The prophet Zechariah spoke of the separation of God from the chosen people of Israel and the future wages that would be given to Judas and how he would dispose of the money. “I said to them, ‘If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!’ So they weighed out thirty *shekels* of silver as my wages. Then the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter, *that* magnificent price at which I was valued by them.’ So I took the thirty *shekels* of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.” (Zechariah 11:12-13) Before Judas was ever born God saw his heart and knew his role in the divine plan for the salvation of mankind. Judas role in God’s divine plan was not something that went against Judas’ own heart’s desire. We see the tension between God’s sovereignty and human free will in Judas. Jesus chose Judas as a disciple and Judas followed Christ only because

God had chosen him. Judas chose to follow but not believe. Judas betrayal was predetermined, but Judas freely chose to act as the betrayer. Jesus affirmed these truths that are in tension when He said, **“For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!”** (Luke 22:22)

Judas had every opportunity to turn from sin. Jesus’ teaching had taught Judas the truth of God and many of His parables were aimed at Judas and meant to let him reflect and turn from sin. In Luke chapter 16 Jesus told the parable of the dishonest Stewart. When the master discovered he was dishonest he moved to remove him from his position of Stewart. So the Stewart quickly called in all of the people who owed money to the master and forgave their debt so they would be indebted to him and help take care of him as soon as he was removed from being Stewart. This move was shrewd by the world’s standards, but dishonest and damaging to the master. Jesus knew Judas was dishonest and ended the parable by saying, **“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”** (Luke 16:13) Jesus taught an important lesson to all His followers and spoke into the heart of Judas to convict him so that he might repent. Jesus spoke a parable in Matthew chapter 22 of the one who came to the wedding but did not belong and that he would cast into the outer darkness. Jesus closed saying, **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** (Matthew 22:14) Judas was with Jesus, but he did not really belong and would indeed be cast into the outer darkness. The tension between divine will and human will is found throughout the gospels. Peter tells Jesus that he had come to believe Jesus was the “Holy One of God” and this was because he was chosen. Jesus replies, **“Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?”** (John 6:70) Jesus reached out to Judas and Judas was unmoved and set by the hardness of his heart and he refused to

repent. So it is today. We do not bring people to belief in Christ. God does use us as instruments to convey the truth of the Scriptures – that people are lost in their sin and need a Savior. But, it is God who calls and regenerates their souls and until this happens their souls are dead and they cannot understand God or His gospel or their need for salvation because they have chosen to harden their hearts against God.

Treason Announced

Jesus wanted to make sure that Judas' betrayal would not put doubt into the minds of the other disciples. Reading beginning at verse 19, "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am He. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." When the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit they would be able to look back with spiritual insight and wisdom and understand what Jesus was doing and predicting with clarity. Jesus is assuring the other disciples the Judas' treachery would not change the divine plan of God for the salvation of sinners that He calls to be His own. He tells the disciples that He will send them out as His ambassadors to the lost world and that those that receive them also receive Him and if they receive Jesus they also receive God the Father. This calling has not changed in two thousand years. If you have been called to salvation and belong to Christ then you are also His ambassadors to the lost world. Paul said clearly to the Corinthians and he is speaking into the heart of every believer here today, "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians

5:20) Paul told the Philippians that believers are citizens of heaven – not this world. Peter said clearly that believers are aliens and strangers of this fallen and sinful world and we are to live for the kingdom. There is no middle ground one is either obedient and faithful to Christ or disobedient and unfaithful. Ask yourself which one are you?

Now that Jesus had warned and prepared the eleven He says, “He became troubled in spirit.” (v.21) Jesus loves all of the Father’s created including Judas and He was troubled that Judas’ hard heart was preventing him from seeing eternal truth. Jesus was troubled because of the close presence of Satan. Jesus was troubled because He knew Judas’ fate in hell and Judas had chosen to be blind to this and believe Satan, who would very shortly possess him. Jesus was troubled because He knew all the pieces had now come together for Him to die on the cross and His separation from the Father for the first and only time. Jesus cried out from the cross, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” (Matthew 27:46) This is the very cry of King David before God delivered him in Psalm 22. (Psalm 22:1) David may not have known the outcome at the time he cried out to God, but he had faith in God. Jesus, as God, knew the outcome and that through His death would come salvation. We have the benefit of history, the scriptures and the Holy Spirit. Do you have the faith of David? Is your belief seen in the way you live?

Twelve Astonished

Who? Which one of us? These thoughts by the eleven are a tribute to the effectiveness of Judas’ deception for three years. No one suspected him. Reading at verse 22, “The disciples *began* looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. ²³There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. ²⁴So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, ‘Tell us who

it is of whom He is speaking.’²⁵ He, leaning back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him, ‘Lord, who is it?’” The Apostle Mark recorded, so dumbfounded and grieved were the eleven that they began talking among themselves saying, “Surely not I?” (Mark 14:19) Even the betrayer, Judas, in an effort to maintain his deception said, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” (Matthew 26:25) Luke says the disciples began discussing among themselves which one might do this terrible thing. We can only imagine what Judas said as part of this conversation and the knowing looks from Jesus to His betrayer. It has always be a matter of the heart; sinful, darkened, selfish and hard without Jesus. Jesus changes our hearts from stone to flesh and they become filled with peace, joy, love and care for others. How much like Jesus we become depends on how obedient, prayerful and servant-like our heart become and our lives model His.

We read, “There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.” That beloved disciple was John. It is interesting that John never names himself in his gospel account. May it be that John humbly knew if was not about him, but it was all about Jesus? Peter gestures to John to get his attention and asks John if he knows who it is that will betray Jesus. John leans “back thus on Jesus’ bosom, said to Him (Jesus), “Lord, who is it?””

Traitor Addressed

Evidently Jesus spoke softly to John and the others did not hear when Jesus said, “That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him.” (v.26) To be given food or a morsel by the host meant to be singled out for a special honor. Jesus reaches out to Judas with a gesture of honor to show kindness up to the end giving Judas a chance to repent. Judas rejects Jesus’ final gesture of love and kindness just as he had on all the previous times over the three years he had been

with the Christ.

Oh, what a terrible moment, the day of salvation ended for Judas. Paul wrote quoting Isaiah 49:8 which Judas would have surely heard from Jesus over the breath of His ministry, “**AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU.**” Behold, now is “**THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,**” behold, now is “**THE DAY OF SALVATION**” (2 Corinthians 6:2) For Judas hell had arrived and “**Satan then entered into him.**” (v.27) Satan possessed Judas physically and spiritually and they became one in purpose. We must remember that Satan could not have entered into Judas if he had not given him admission. Have you ever thought that Judas had given himself over to Satan so completely that betraying Jesus created no concern in his heart and soul. It was only after Satan left Judas that he had remorse. Once Judas had given himself to Satan and crossed over to the outer darkness Jesus dismissed him saying, “**What you do, do quickly.**”

Jesus wanted Judas to leave as He was about to institute the Lord’s Supper and He did not want it tainted by Judas and especially the presence of Satan. If Satan, who was spiritually blinded by his own ambition tarried, might he have seen the Lord’s Supper and become aware that his evil plan actually served the divine plan of God for the salvation of the chosen?

As the eleven enjoyed this special celebration that Jesus commanded to be observed until His return we now prepare our hearts, minds and souls for participate in the holy sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.