

Carry the Name

- Everyone wants to be associated with a winning team and a winning name.
- “A man without a name is like a fire without a flame.”
- There’s pride in the family name.

- God devoted Himself to adopting us into His family.
- 1 Peter 1:18- For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty way of life you inherited from your ancestors.
- God paid a high price to SAVE you from that name and give you a new one! Instead of our identity and inheritance being found in our name, if we come under the blood of Jesus- our inheritance and identity are found in a new name, the name of Jesus! The name of the Lord, YHWH, our God.
- God’s people, no longer live under their family name, but we live under a new name, the name of God!

- God’s really into names and name changing. Because *with God- a name is more than a label, it’s a description of your nature or calling.*
- Genesis 17:3-5- Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram[exalted father]; your name will be Abraham,[father of many] for you will be the father of many nations.
- His calling and identity are tied to his name change.
- Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, Simon to Peter, etc.
- God loves changing names because when we come to Him, we take on a new identity, a new purpose and calling.
- When we become followers of Christ, we don't change our actual birth name, but we take on the name and identity of God- we’re God’s people, called by His name; we are His children.

- 2 Chronicles 7:14- “If My people who are called by My name...”
- Revelation 3:12- The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God...”
- Revelation 13:17- so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.
- Revelation 14:1- Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads.
- Those who belong to the beast, have his name written on them. And those who belong to the Lamb have His name written on them!

- A name on something declares ownership.

- Being labeled by God is an amazing thing because the name of God is a really important thing! God's name is so important that 1 of the 10 commandments is dedicated to God's name.
- The 3rd commandment says, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." Exodus 20:7, ESV
- This is obviously very serious. There are 10 commandments and God chooses to dedicate one entire command, to His name! And in that command, He also lays out the punishment of breaking the command.
- What does it mean to "take the name of the LORD your God in vain"?
- Most often, it's understood this way- do not Blaspheme or curse the name of God- I absolutely agree with that. Don't use the name of our beautiful Savior as a cuss word, don't swear by His name, don't use His name falsely "God told me",
- Because of the punishment tied to this command- many people refuse to even write the word God. They write G-D. Over time, the Hebrews stopped saying the name of God all together because they were so scared of breaking this command.
- To take God's name in vain can also mean- Don't carelessly use His holy, mighty, and reverent name. So when you use God's name, have respect and honor and reverence. Don't just use His name flippantly- "Oh Lord"; Don't just use His name as a comma in your prayers.
- All of these interpretations are true and have a lot of merit to them, but there's much more weight to this command.
- "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."
- What does it mean to "take"? The Hebrew word is here is nāśā' . It's a bit difficult to translate into English but it means = to take, to lift up, to carry, to bear.
- This word is used over 600 times in the OT so we get a good idea of what it means.
- Genesis 4:13- Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear." nāśā'
- Genesis 21:18- Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."
- Genesis 27:3- Now then, get your equipment—your quiver and bow—and go out to the open country to hunt some wild game for me."
- Exodus 28:29- "Whenever Aaron enters the Holy Place, he will bear the names of the sons of Israel over his heart on the breastpiece of decision as a continuing memorial before the Lord.
- We see the same Hebrew word being used in many different situations. And so you can see how this gets tricky to interpret? Cain is bearing but not physically, Hagar physically lifts up her son, Esau physically takes his bow and arrow and carries it, Aaron wears the names literally in a way to figuratively represent them to God.
- So when we read, do not nāśā' the name of the Lord in vain...what does it mean? Does it mean not to say or write His name in vain? It can certainly mean that...but it also means do not to bear His name in vain or carry His name in vain; do not take or wear the name of the LORD in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain."

- It's much more than "watch your mouth." God has placed His seal of ownership and identity upon you. Don't take it in vain.
- Numbers 6:22-27- The Lord said to Moses, **23** "Tell Aaron and his sons, "This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: **24** ""The Lord bless you and keep you; **25** the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; **26** the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."" **27** "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."
- God puts His name on His people. It's like a verbal branding. He marks them as His. He is a jealous God and He is jealous for His people.
- What does it mean for us?
- **#1. You Carry the Name.**
- April Peterson took my name and is now April Amaya. April and my sons bear my name and carry it. They nāśā' my name.
- There's deep significance to nāśā'-ing, or taking someones name. There's intimacy in bearing someones name. It's a sign of relationship and commitment.
- If you have accepted Jesus, then you've been grafted into His family tree, and you are called by His name.
- What are the implications of carrying His Name?
 - 1. You're loved!
 - You are chosen by God to be His holy people. You are loved by God...so much so that He would put His name on you and claim you as His own. His love is fully fixated on you! He is committed to you!
 - Because you Carry His name- You are loved!!! And #2. You have rights.
 - And as a child of God, you have rights. As the bride of Christ, you have rights. You have access to His heart, His ear is attentive to your call, you have the keys to His power, grace, mercy, love, joy, peace, etc.
 - ***Rest in that love, exercise those rights.
- **#2. Carry His Name with Purpose.**
- Because we carry the Name, we must carry His Name...with purpose. We must not carry His Name in vain.
- There's responsibility in this. God has chosen us to carry His name. So we must not carry His Name in vain.
- The phrase "in vain" can be translated = emptiness, meaningless, falsely, without effect.
- Psalm 127:1- Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.
- They build to no effect. They watch and it doesn't matter, it's not going to make no difference.
- So do not carry the Name of the Lord without effect; do not carry the Name of the Lord falsely.
- By being Name carriers, we represent God to the world. He's branded or tattooed us by His Name. And now our responsibility is to carry HIM into the world. A name is more

than a label, it's His nature. So we ought to carry His power, His love, His righteousness with us wherever we go...for He will not hold guiltless the one who takes His name in vain and falsely represents Him. Represents Him to no effect.

- This is what happens with the Israelites. God places His holy name upon them, they do not represent Him well, they dishonor the name of God by living in wickedness and sin. And so God punishes them. He sends them to Babylon. The exile happens, in part, because the Israelites profane God's great name.
- Ezekiel 36:19-21, 23- **19** I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. **20** And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name...**21** I had concern for my holy name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone... **23** I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.
- We bear the name of our God and by our conduct and actions: His name will either be proven holy or profaned.
- This is what Jesus was pointing to in His prayer on the mount: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name." Your name has been profaned for too long! May Your Name be honored as holy!
- "May Your Name be revered and honored among the people I'm around...because of the way that I carry it!"
- God's name is going to profaned or it's going to be hallowed and honored as holy because of how we carry it. Let us carry it well. Let us represent Him well!
- If we are to represent Him, we must know who He is- God is merciful, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, He is just and righteous.
- And if we are to Carry His Name truthfully, and with effect we must be merciful, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, we must be just and righteous.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20- **17** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! **18** And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. **19** For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. **20** So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"
- God is calling you show the world what He is like. Not only by what you say, but by how you live: your conduct and your actions.
- Everywhere you go, you carry the Name. You're not just a teacher or contractor or salesperson- you're a living, breathing example of what Jesus is like.

- You're not just getting coffee with a friend, going to work, etc...you're carrying the Name.
- Before you walk out of the house: I am loved and I am being sent out to love. Lord, may I carry Your Name well today.
- **Are you like the God you worship?**
- You no longer represent yourself. You no longer carry your name, your no longer represent your interests, passions, taste in music and movie, your speech, your attitude, mood, time, no longer represent you. You represent Him!...don't represent Him falsely.
- You have power, use it. You have a mandate, answer it. God loves, so love. Shows mercy; compassionate. God is truth so stand for truth. Represent Him with your life, your speech and your deeds.