

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

But the LORD Came Down (Genesis 11:1-9)

Sermon Outline

Introduction - Christmas Vacation and the Tower of Babel

1. Making a name for ourselves
2. Receiving a name from God

Conclusion - Whose approval am I seeking: the world's or God's?

Scripture References

- Genesis 10:10 - And the beginning of [Nimrod's] kingdom was Babel...
- Genesis 4:16 - Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.
- Genesis 9:1 - So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."
- Proverbs 16:18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- Luke 16:15 - And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God."
- Ephesians 6:6-7 - Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men...
- Matthew 6:1 - Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- Acts 8:18-19 - And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money...
- Genesis 12:2 - I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.
- James 4:6 - But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."
- Acts 2:11 - "We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

Reflection Questions

- If someone asked what defined you, what would you say?
- How does God's word help us recenter our identity on Christ?
- Why do you think it was so dangerous for the Babelites to attempt making a name for themselves by their sin?
- Was God's division of mankind at Babel more a punishment or a mercy? Why?
- What do you notice about the contrast between Gen 11:4, "Let us make a name for ourselves," and Gen 12:2, "I will bless you and make your name great?"
- Can you think of a personal time when God ruined your plans as a mercy to you?
- In Acts 2, God reverses the division of Babel through the gift of tongues: what has changed in Acts 2 that means mankind can now be brought back together?