

APRIL 15-21

MONDAY 4/15

EXODUS 3:1-15

Moses encounters God at the burning bush and asks for His name. God responds with the powerful statement, "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). This name signifies God's self-existence and eternal nature. God is always and forever present. God has no beginning nor ending, indeed, God is not bound by time in any way. This eternal, unchanging God is the source of all power, all truth and, literally, all of creation. God's name of "I am who I am" says in a powerful way that God's nature is not determined or defined by our understanding of God: God is who God is.

1. How do you understand who God is? What does it mean to you that God says, "I am who I am"?

2. How do you experience God's power and truth? How does knowing God bring you comfort or strength?

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

Paul begins by appealing to us as Chrsit follwoers to be of one mind with each other. That is, to find unity in Christ. He then draw us to understand what being of the mind of Christ is: the incredible act of Jesus being exalted by God. Philippians 2:9 states, "Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name." The name of Jesus is given such reverence that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow" (Philippians 2:10). This signifies Jesus' universal authority and reign.

- 1. In what ways does acknowledging the power of Jesus' name influence your worship and prayer life?
- 2. How can you demonstrate reverence for Jesus' name in your daily interactions with others?

WEDNESDAY 4/17

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Paul reminds us to integrate our faith into everything we do. Verse 17 instructs us, "whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." By incorporating Jesus' name into our actions and words, we acknowledge Him as the source of our strength and the guiding force in our lives.

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REVELATION 5:1-10

The book of Revelation offers a glimpse of heavenly worship. Here we are witness to the worthienss of Christ (the Lamb) and the power in His name. Revelation 5:9 describes a song praising the Lamb "standing, as if slaughtered" (symbolic representation of Jesus), saying, "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation." This passage highlights the immense worth of Jesus, associated with His sacrifice and power to redeem humanity.

- 1. Why do you think Jesus is considered worthy of such praise and honor?
- 2. How does contemplating Jesus' sacrifice impact your understanding of His power and love?

FRIDAY 4/19

PSALM 118

This Psalm expresses thankfulness to God. The Psalmist declares, "The Lord has opened the gates for me, and I will enter them; I will give thanks to the Lord" (Psalm 118:21). Giving thanks is a powerful way to acknowledge God's presence and blessings in our lives. While not directly mentioning Jesus' name, this verse reinforces the importance of expressing gratitude to God..

- 1. Consider the things you are grateful for in life. How can you connect your thankfulness to God's power and love?
- 2. In what ways can you cultivate a daily habit of expressing gratitude to God?

SATURDAY/ SUNDAY 4/20-21

ACTS 4:1-22

Luke (the writer of Acts) shows us the boldness of the early disciples after the Holy Spirit descends upon them. Peter and John had healed a lame man "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (Acts 3:6). The act results in great astonishment among the people and trouble for the disciples. The religious leaders demand to know by what authority the disciples act and they don't hold back: "...that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health." Salvation is found in no other name. The passage highlights the power associated with Jesus' name and the impact it has on those who witness its effects.

- 1. an you recall a time when you witnessed the power of God working in someone's life?
- 2. How can you cultivate greater confidence in sharing your faith and the power of Jesus' name with others?

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."

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(Acts 4:12)

SERMON NOTES					