

## 1 **The Power of a Name**

### 2 **Scripture**

- Moses said to the LORD, “You have been telling me, ‘Lead these people,’ but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. (Exodus 33:12a)
- You have said, ‘I know you by name and that you have found favor with me.’ (Exodus 33:12b)
- If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways, so I may know you, and continue to find favor with you. (Exodus 33:13a)
- Remember, that this nation is your people.” (Exodus 33:13b)

### 3 **Scripture**

- The LORD replied, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” (Exodus 33:14)
- Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. (Exodus 33:15a)
- How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? (Exodus 33:15b)
- What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?” (Exodus 33:16)

### 4 **Scripture**

- And the LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.” (Exodus 33:17)
- Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.” (Exodus 33:18)

### 5 **Introduction**

- The celebrated writer and lecturer, Dale Carnegie, who wrote such books as the “Art of Public Speaking” and “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” once said; . . .
- “A person’s name is to him or her the sweetest sound in any language.”

### 6 **Introduction**

- However, many people struggle to remember a person’s name.
- That’s especially true when there is a power imbalance in a relationship.

### 7 **Introduction**

- Think of a professor with a large freshman class,
  - where every student knows the teacher’s name,
  - but he has to learn the names of a lots of students.

### 8 **Introduction**

- Or maybe a high-ranking official in government or business . . .
- . . . where the employees all know their names,
- but they know only a few of their names.

## 9 Introduction

- Or, closer to home, consider the pastor of a mid-size to large church who runs into an occasional attendee at the grocery store.
- While the pastor may recognize the face, he is at a loss to the person's name.
- They may call out, hey "Pastor Jim," but the pastor without a definite name to use, just calls him "brother."

## 10 Introduction

- Forgetting or failing to know someone's name can be a real disconnect and can create division between people.
- Haven't we all, felt the sting of . . .
  - knowing someone we've met before, or
  - even someone we respect and admire,
  - who blows past us in the hallway without a second look because they didn't remember or know our names.

## 11 Introduction

- If Dale Carnegie is right, then the opposite must be true: . . .
- Not hearing our name must be
  - the loudest,
  - discouraging silence
  - in any language!

## 12 Introduction

- So then, what a difference it makes,
  - when that professor actually greets one of his students by name.
  - Or when the boss pokes their head into someone's office and tells him by name what a good job he's doing,
  - it changes the relationship.

## 13 Introduction

- And when that pastor knows the name of the person putting Rice Krispies into their cart at the store, . . .
- It makes them feel more connected to both the pastor and the church.

## 14 Introduction

- Learning names is a discipline that requires being fully focused when meeting another person.
- Techniques for retaining a person's name include:
  - repeating the name when you are introduced,
  - using it in a sentence,

- spelling it out, and
- associating the name with something about the person

## 15 Introduction

- Important Point!
  - It's not the technique that matters so much as the purpose.
  - When you know someone's name, you're on the fast track to knowing them and being known by them.

## 16 The Good Shepherd

- In the Parable of the Good Shepherd, John records Jesus saying the following.
- The watchman opens the gate for him (Good Shepherd), and the sheep (God's elect) listen to his voice.
- He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. . . . and his sheep follow him (John 10:3-4).

## 17 Moses

- When Moses first meets with God in the Exodus story, it's clear that there is a power imbalance at work.
- God is God, after all, and Moses is just a human being; and yet, Moses has an intimacy with God that is unique in the Old Testament.
- As the writer of Exodus puts it, God spoke to Moses "face to face, as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11).

## 18 Moses

- In our Scripture reading from Exodus 33:12-23;
  - Five times we read that Moses has found favor in God's eyes.
  - Twice we read that God knows Moses, "by name."
  - However, dealing with a stubborn and stiff-necked people is more than Moses can handle.
  - So, what does Moses ask of the Lord?

## 19 Moses

- He asks God for knowledge and wisdom on how to walk in God's ways so that he may continue to have God's favor.
- Then Moses says to God, "if your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here." {See Exodus 33:15}
- The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14)

## 20 God's Glory

- You know when we have God's presence in our lives, life is a lot easier.
- The burden of our trials don't seem so overwhelming.
- Having God's presence help silences our fears, anxieties, and if we cooperate with it, all our worries too.

## 21 God's Glory

- In fact, according to Exodus 33, having God's favor and presence is what distinguishes us from the world.
- Moreover, in Moses' case and perhaps in ours, it opens the door for something really special.
- See God's glory!

## 22 **God's Goodness**

- And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. . . . (Exodus 33:19)
- But, he (God) said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live." (Exodus 33:20)

## 23 **God's Glory**

- Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. (Exodus 33:21)
- When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. (Exodus 33:22)
- Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen." (Exodus 33:23)

## 24 **God's Name**

- Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. (Exodus 34:5)
- Not just his covenantal name, but His full name with all of His titles and accolades.

## 25 **God's Full Name**

- And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,
- "The LORD, (Exodus 34:6-7)
  - the compassionate and gracious God,
  - slow to anger,
  - abounding in love and faithfulness,
  - maintaining love to thousands, and
  - forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
  - Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished . . .

## 26 **Moses' Respond**

- When Moses saw this he bowed to the ground at once and worshiped.
- "O Lord, if I have found favor in your eyes," he said, "then let the Lord go with us.
- In other words, Moses understood and so should we, the Lord's presence is a must in our lives, if we are going to make it to the "Promised Land."

## 27 **Gaining God's Presence**

- So then, how can we learn from Moses and nurture God's presence in our lives?

- Pray for wisdom on how to please the Lord and so stay in his favor.
- Why? Because having God's favor and presence are directly related.
- Meditate on the Lord's name because all the attributes of God's character and abilities are contained in His name.
- In other words, knowing God's name is key to our faith.

## 28 **Effects of God's Presence**

- So then, did God's presence go with Moses?
- According to Deuteronomy 4:37-38, Moses speaking to the Israelites, said,
  - he brought you out of Egypt by his Presence and his great strength,
  - to drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and
  - to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance (Promised Land), as it is today.

## 29 **Moral of the Story**

- So then, what is the moral of the story?
  - Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! (1 Chronicles 16:11)
  - Maintain integrity in all we do as David has said, In my integrity you uphold me and set me in your presence forever. (Psalm 41:12)
  - Why should we make such effort? Because "In God's presences the joys of our hearts are fulfilled." (Psalm 21:6)

## 30 **Conclusion**

- Today, we live in a society that has become very toxic where division and animosity have not only consumed politics, but almost every other social element in our country.
- In other words, we live in a Wilderness.
  - In my opinion, getting through this Wilderness is going to be dependent on the quality of our faith.
  - People who find God's presence are going to be a great source of help and a guide for those who want to enter the Promised Land.

## 31 **Conclusion**

- So then, let us not fail our brothers and sisters in Christ or our country as well.
- There are others who will get through this wilderness when they see our faith and commitment to God.
- This will help people to put their hope and faith in God and His coming Kingdom.

## 32 **Conclusion**

- Since God knows us by name, let us be a witness of what God can do through those who
  - know God's name,
  - find his favor, and

- have His presence.
- AMEN