

CLAIM THE NAME... *Jesus*

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Introduction

The Bible makes it clear that the name of Jesus is to be honored and respected above all other names. In **Philippians 2:9-11** we read:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In this first session we will address some basic questions about the name of Jesus, and then we will consider one of the names of Jesus.

Questions:

- Why is the *name of Jesus* emphasized so much in the New Testament?
- Why does the Bible stress the importance and the power of *his name*?
- Why are we to praise the *name of Jesus*?
- Why do we always pray “*in the name of Jesus*”?

The importance of names in the Old Testament

God changed the name of Abram to Abraham.

Genesis 17:5: *No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.*

Abram means *exalted father*. Abraham means *father of many*. So, by changing Abram’s name, God was giving Abram a new assignment. His wife’s name was also changed from Sarai to Sarah:

Genesis 17:15 – 16: *God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”*

The importance of God’s own name:

God explained to Moses what his name is and why it is important:

Exodus 3:13 – 14: *Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*

The purpose of this name was so that every time they read the name of God—Yahweh—they would remember the very essence of who God is: “**I am who I am**” means he had no beginning, no ending, no becoming, no changing. I absolutely am. I am true. I am reliable.

The importance of the name of Jesus:

Notice what Isaiah said about God:

Isaiah 45:23: *By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.*

When Paul quotes that text in Philippians 2:10, he puts Jesus' name in there. Paul is saying that Jesus is Yahweh, and that whatever was true of that name is now true of the name Jesus.

The name of Jesus represents who Jesus is, and when we speak it or praise it or sing it, we do so with reverence and joy and praise and thanksgiving—the very name engenders those feelings and responses in us.

“The name of Jesus goes hand in hand with the fame of Jesus. A name is a way of communicating with, and a way of communicating about, to all of the world, whom you're talking about. And Jesus exists to be known; he exists to be addressed and praised all over the world.” (Piper)

Why do you think Satan has attacked the name of God and Jesus?

- Why are their names used as curse words?
- Why do people who've never had an encounter with Jesus so freely use his name so irreverently?
- What should you do when someone uses God's name or Jesus' name as a curse word in your presence?

Here are some ways the name of Jesus was emphasized in the New Testament

The name of Jesus was used for salvation:

Acts 2:38: *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

1 Corinthians 1:2: *To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours.*

Hebrews 7:25: *Therefore he (Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

The name of Jesus was used for healing:

Acts 3:6, 16:

Vs. 6: *“Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”*

Vs. 16: *“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.*

They preached in the name of Jesus:

Acts 8:12: *But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

Acts 9:27: *But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.*

They baptized in the name of Jesus:

Acts 10:48: *So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.*

They cast out spirits in the name of Jesus:

Acts 16:18: *She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” At that moment the spirit left her.*

Demons submitted to the name of Jesus

Luke 10:17: *The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”*

The name of Jesus was praised by his people:

Psalm 30:4: *Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.*

Hebrews 2:12: *He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises."*

Hebrews 13:15: *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.*

They prayed in the name of Jesus:

John 14:13 - 14: *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*

John 16:23 - 24: *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*

What does it mean to pray "in the name of Jesus"?

- We pray in the name of Jesus because our own name is worthless.
- When we pray in the name of Jesus, we are confessing our faith and trust in him.
- Praying in the name of Jesus is praying with authority.
- Praying in the name of Jesus is to pray with submission to his will.
- We pray in the name of Jesus because he has promised to hear and answer us.

What it boils down to is that without the authority to pray in the name of Jesus, our prayers would be worthless. We are unworthy; our failures are many; we are asking forgiveness over and over for the same thing. Why would God want to endure our prayers?

It would be impossible except for the good news that as believers, we call on God in the precious name of Jesus and we're wrapped in his righteousness. The Father actually delights to invite us into his presence when we come in the name and on the authority of his Son, Jesus.

Zephaniah 3:17: *The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.*

John 14:21: *Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.*

Ephesians 1:6 (NKJV): *...to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

Does that mean that our prayers will not avail unless we always add "in the name of Jesus" at the end?

1 Timothy 2:5: *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*

His name gives us power in prayer

John 16:23: *In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.*

Jesus' name carries so much weight with the Father,
that he will give us what we ask for when we ask in the name of Jesus.

We have been given authority through his name.

Jesus gave us the power to use his name as his representatives on earth today. Everything that Jesus wants to get done on earth today, he does it through the believers in his name.

"Why is Jesus Called the "Son of Man"?", April 4, 2008, Interview with Jonhn Piper, Desiring God, www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-is-jesus-called-son-of-man

Matthew 28:18 – 20: *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

John 14:12: *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

Jesus’ Name: Son of Man

Jesus refers to himself as the “Son of man” more often than any other title—more often than Son of God. In the Gospels he uses that title 86 times, compared to Son of God 34 times. In those days the title “Son of Man” carried a specific reference to the Messiah. The disciples and others with “ears to hear” would clearly recognize that Jesus was using this Messianic title, referring to a passage in:

Daniel 7:13 - 14: *“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”*

By calling himself “Son of Man,” Jesus was claiming to be the one prophesied in Daniel, the Messiah, who would be given authority and power by God.

Mark 2:10: *“But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”*

Matthew 12:40: *For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

“Jesus was very subtle in that he was always opening his identity to those with eyes to see, but he wasn't opening it so blatantly that everybody would come and make him king.” (Piper)

Matthew 16:13 – 20:

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Mark 14:61 – 62:

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶² *“I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

“And only when the time was right—mainly when he was on trial for his life—did he say, “I am. . . .” (Piper)

So he confessed his open deity right at the point where he knew he would be crucified for it.

How do we “claim the name of Jesus”—Son of Man?

“Why is Jesus Called the “Son of Man”?”, April 4, 2008, Interview with Jonhn Piper, Desiring God, www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-is-jesus-called-son-of-man