



Week of April 26, 2020: The Lord's Prayer – "Hallowed be Your Name"

Discussion Questions Set #1

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:9-13)

"Praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory [is] above the earth and heaven". (Psalm 148:13)

In sermon, we suggested that the word "hallowed" simply means to "be made holy" and describes the separating of something holy from that which is not. It can also be used to describe the uniqueness or "otherness" of something above all others.

1. Put into your own words, what it means that God's name is hallowed?
2. Discuss how you know God to be unique or "other than" all others?
3. Failing to hallow God's name can involve treating as common God's name. What do you think it means to treat God's name "commonly"? Why do you think it is such an affront to God to treat His name as common?

Discussion Questions Set #2

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." (Exodus 20:7)

"All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever." (Micah 4:5)

"The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name." (Zechariah 14:9)

In sermon, we suggested that in ancient times, name and reputation were much more closely linked than perhaps at present. In many ways, names communicate something vital about the person. God's many names then communicate to us various aspects of who He is, but His proper name, "Yahweh", ought to be revered as holy because it points to the reality of God's reputation of holiness. Ancient Jews also understood that they could live in one of two ways in relation to God's holy name, either living in "kiddush hashem" – living in such a way that God's glory was brought among those who did not know Him – or "hillul hashem" - living in such a way that God was maligned among those who did not know Him.

1. Why is it significant that one day, God will ensure His name is eternally hallowed? How might this reality cause us to live?
2. Scripture is clear that, though God will ensure His name is hallowed, we too play a role in hallowing God's name in the world. Discuss how, by both word and deed, we might hallow God's name.
3. Think of our present circumstances with COVID-19. How might our words and living at this time either cause God's name to be hallowed or to be maligned?

Discussion Questions Set #3

"Keep my commands and follow them. I am the LORD. Do not profane my holy name, for I must be acknowledged as holy by the Israelites." (Leviticus 22:31-32)

"Since [we] call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out [our] time as foreigners here in reverent fear." (1 Peter 1:17)

"Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you". (Psalm 9:10)

In sermon, we talked about three practical ways to hallow God's name: by keeping his commandments, by fearing God and by simply trusting in what God says.

1. Discuss how each of these three practices causes God's name to be hallowed.
2. How does lack of trust in what God says cause God's name to be profaned? Have you ever thought of lack of trust in God in this way?
3. In light of these three understandings, how might our practice – our approach to and engagement in - prayer be affected?