

Vain Speech and Action

August 21, 2011

Focus: This third commandment warns us against bringing the holy name of God of heaven and earth into our petty squabbles, fights and vain speech.

Exodus 20:7

7 “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

Ezekiel 36:16-21

16 Again the word of the LORD came to me: 17 “Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman’s monthly uncleanness in my sight. 18 So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. 19 I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. 20 And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, ‘These are the LORD’s people, and yet they had to leave his land.’ 21 I had concern for my holy name, which the people of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone.

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And 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.



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Psalm 44

1 We have heard it with our ears, O God; our ancestors have told us what you did in their days, in days long ago.
 2 With your hand you drove out the nations and planted our ancestors; you crushed the peoples and made our ancestors flourish.
 3 It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.
 4 You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob.
 5 Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes.
 6 I put no trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory;
 7 but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame.
 8 In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever.
 9 But now you have rejected and humbled us; you no longer go out with our armies.
 10 You made us retreat before the enemy, and our adversaries have plundered us.
 11 You gave us up to be devoured like sheep and have scattered us among the nations.
 12 You sold your people for a pittance, gaining nothing from their sale.
 13 You have made us a reproach to our neighbors, the scorn and derision of those around us.
 14 You have made us a byword among the nations; the peoples shake their heads at us.
 15 I live in disgrace all day long, and my face is covered with shame
 16 at the taunts of those who reproach and revile me, because of the enemy, who is bent on revenge.
 17 All this came upon us, though we had not forgotten you; we had not been false to your covenant.
 18 Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.
 19 But you crushed us and made us a haunt for jackals; you covered us over with deep darkness.
 20 If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god,
 21 would not God have discovered it, since he knows the secrets of the heart?
 22 Yet for your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.
 23 Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.
 24 Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?
 25 We are brought down to the dust; our bodies cling to the ground.
 26 Rise up and help us; rescue us because of your unfailing love.

Matthew 6:7-15

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

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