

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Gathering Followers: Calls & Conflicts January 28, 2024

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Dale explores the importance of names, focusing on how God's act of naming creates reality. Through community and a relationship with Jesus, our identity is found in Christ, and we can be assured of our names being registered in heaven.

Scripture

Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons. These are the twelve he chose: Simon (whom he named Peter), James and John (the sons of Zebedee, but Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder"), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). Mark 3:13-19 (NLT)

"If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it." Mark 8:35 (NLT)

"But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven." Luke 10:20 (NLT)

"The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." John 10:3 (NLT)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:1, 5 (ESV)

No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless thousands of angels in a joyful gathering. You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. You have come to the spirits of the righteous ones in heaven who have now been made perfect. You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel. Hebrews 12:22-24 (NLT)

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Revelation 2:17 (NLT) “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”

Let's Start

If you had to give yourself a new name, what would you name yourself?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. How much importance do you think should be given to the choice of a person's name? Do you believe it has a significant impact on one's identity?
2. What does it mean to be “named” by Jesus?
3. Reflect on the transformation that occurred when Jesus named His disciples as Apostles. How do you think their new names affected their identity and purpose?
4. Ephesians 2:10 describes believers as God's workmanship. How does this idea influence your understanding of your own identity in Christ?
5. Pastor Dale poured a pitcher of water into a basin to illustrate God's love flowing into us. How does God shape us to experience the inflow of His love?
6. Explore the three ways Pastor Dale suggested to discover your true name: losing yourself in serving others, being in community and practicing "withing" (constant relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit). Which of these resonates with you the most, and why?
7. Pastor Dale used an illustration of Eustace's transformation from a dragon back into a boy from *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. In what ways can layers of false identity be removed in your own life, and how does community play a role in this process?
8. Luke 10:20 emphasizes rejoicing because our names are registered in heaven. How does this assurance impact your perspective on your identity and significance in Christ?

Let's Act

Who do you know who needs to be “named” by Jesus? How can you pray and share the love of Christ with them this week?

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