

BIBLE

PARALLEL

LINES

Parallel Lines Pt. 3: Don't Speak Falsely

Lev 19:12 “*Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.*”

How did swearing become a God thing? I mean how did saying Jesus Christ or God Dam become a mouth full of soap? From Exodus 20 until today, swearing has evolved. I looked into the etymology of swearing and found that it has European roots. That makes sense considering most of us in North America come from Europe at one time. German, Swiss, and French words have filtered into our common language. Yet, somehow, within 2000 years Jesus Christ has become a swear word, or has it?

In reality, taking the Lord's name in vain is all in the deliverance. Someone said “thou shalt not utter the Lord's name without reverence.” How and why, we say Jesus Christ tells us why you're using those chosen words. Are you quoting Jesus? Did you bash your big toe? Are you angry, frustrated, or upset? I suspect that many people in the early centuries used the name of Jesus to cry out in anger or pain. A sort of calling or prayer. There are some stories that the pious and rich started using these slurs as a signature of their status. Some in the ancient theatre used God's name to shock and rile the masses in the theatre.

Why does it matter to God about His name? Look at our first two studies. God commands that we have no other Gods and no idols. I will go further by saying not to have other Gods in

any way, shape, or form. It stands to reason that people will use anything for their own purpose. In history the words *God Dam You* were used to condemn a person. To punish or rebuke someone. Is God condemning or cursing them, or are you? I feel that “using” or “swear falsely” is the key. Are we using God’s name as a weapon or sword to strike down others in anger? In a real way we are replacing God’s influence, character, and power with our judgment.

Matthew 5 is part of the Sermon on the Mount. I am drawing parallel lines between Matthew, the Ten Commandments, and Leviticus. They all mention not saying the Lord’s name in vain. Matthew 5:22 says *“But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.* What is Raca? It basically is calling someone stupid. That does not seem so bad. Yet, the point Jesus is making in many of the Sermon on the Mount verses is deeper sin. Adultery is now thinking or lusting over sex. The act alone is not sinning more than the intentions or thought behind the sin. Raca is really saying that you hate them, think poor of them, or even despise them. Could you be even calling them false names?

If you link the first three commandments together you get a picture. Moses in Leviticus 19 is reminding the people to remember their God. To honor and reverence their God. It comes down to how we treat others. Do you think that people who treat people badly would treat God with reverence? If you would worship another God or replace God with an idol, would you speak falsely too of God?

Matthew 15:19-20 *“For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

The parallel lines are all over the place. Did you notice false testimony in the verse above? The Lords name in vain is much more than the words God, Dam, Jesus, or Christ. 1 Corinthians 4:6 *“Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, “Do not go beyond what is written.” Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other.”* In ancient History the Israelites would not even say the name Yahweh for fear of insulting God. It means “I am.” Imagine Moses coming to the people in Egypt and saying “I am” sent me. The horrified looks! 1 Corinthians 4:6 is reminding us to use the words in the Bible wisely. That being puffed up means were using them in a wrong manner.

Using the Lord’s name in a false or poor manner is not really a swear word. It’s taking Gods good name and using it in such a way that makes His name look bad. Why are you saying “in the name of the Lord?” Why are you yelling Jesus Christ? What is the intent of God dam? If you claim to be Christian then how are you using the Lord’s name in your actions? Using Gods name in a derogatory way is just being disrespectful to your creator. God wanted us to not worship other Gods or idols so that we would honor Him alone. To use the Lord’s name in a good way that would honor Him as well. The parallel lines say Honor God with your lips because a real Christian who loves Him would.

Matthew 15:8 *‘These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.’*