



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Violating God's Name | Leviticus 24:10-17

1. How do you feel when your name has been slandered or used in an inappropriate way?
2. In ancient Israel God's "name" provided insight into God's very person and character. It was more than a label. It was a doorway into relationship. What does this insight suggest about this story?
3. The book of Leviticus describes and prescribes the words and rites which bring one into the Divine Presence. In light of the overall purpose of the book of Leviticus (instructing worshippers into God's presence) what does this story tell us?
4. Is there a way to use or utter God's name that is theologically correct yet still blocks someone's access to God's presence? Is this a form of blasphemy?
5. If the antidote to blasphemy (inappropriate utterance of God's name) is praise and adoration (appropriate utterance), how might the Church best guard its members against blasphemy?

NEXT WEEK:

Violating
God's Rest
Numbers 15:32-36

NOTES:



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Punishment for Blasphemy

¹⁰Now an Israelite woman's son, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the people of Israel. And the Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought in the camp, ¹¹and the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the Name, and cursed. Then they brought him to Moses. His mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan. ¹²And they put him in custody, till the will of the LORD should be clear to them.

¹³Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁴"Bring out of the camp the one who cursed, and let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him. ¹⁵And speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. ¹⁶Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him. The sojourner as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.

An Eye for an Eye

¹⁷"Whoever takes a human life shall surely be put to death.

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