

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

1. What's in a Name

Mike talked about names and what I would call subtitles. Alexander the Great, Richard the Lionheart, Peter the Rock, Doubting Thomas. This got me to thinking about God's names? There is comfort in knowing them and praying through them.

- Elohim – God, Creator, Mighty One (Genesis 1:1)
- Ruach – Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2)
- Yahweh (YHWH) – I AM WHO I AM (Genesis 2:4, Exodus 3:14)
- El Elyon – God Most High (Genesis 14:18–20)
- Adonai – Lord, Master (Genesis 15:2)
- El Roi – The God Who Sees Me (Genesis 16:13)
- El Shaddai – God Almighty, All-Sufficient One (Genesis 17:1)
- El Olam – The Everlasting God (Genesis 21:33)
- Yahweh-Yireh (Jehovah-Jireh) – The LORD Will Provide (Genesis 22:14)
- The Mighty One of Jacob (Genesis 49:24)
- Yahweh-Rapha – The LORD Who Heals (Exodus 15:26)
- Yahweh-Nissi – The LORD is My Banner (Exodus 17:15)
- Yahweh-Mekaddishkem – The LORD Who Sanctifies You (Exodus 31:13)
- Qanna – Jealous God (Exodus 34:14)
- Rock – Unshakeable Refuge (Deuteronomy 32:4)
- Yahweh-Shalom – The LORD is Peace (Judges 6:24)
- Yahweh-Sabaoth – The LORD of Hosts (1 Samuel 1:3)
- Go'el – Redeemer, Kinsman-Redeemer (Job 19:25)
- Yahweh-Rohi (Jehovah-Rohi) – The LORD My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
- Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:9, 13, 22)
- Yahweh-Tsidkenu (Jehovah-Tsidkenu) – The LORD Our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)
- Yahweh-Shammah (Jehovah-Shammah) – The LORD is There (Ezekiel 48:35)
- Immanuel – God With Us (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23)
- Jesus (Yeshua) – The LORD is Salvation (Matthew 1:21)
- Christ (Messiah) – Anointed One (Matthew 16:16)
- Son of God (Matthew 3:17)
- Abba (Father) (Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15)
- Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22, Acts 1:8)
- Logos – The Word (John 1:1)
- Lamb of God (John 1:29)

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

- The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
- Parakletos – Comforter, Advocate, Helper (John 14:16, John 15:26)
- Spirit of Truth (John 14:17, John 16:13)
- Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9, 1 Peter 1:11)
- Spirit of Adoption (Romans 8:15)
- Eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14)
- Spirit of Glory (1 Peter 4:14)
- Alpha and Omega – The Beginning and the End (Revelation 1:8)
- King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16)

Back to names. Mike challenged us to think about what others see, or better yet, *who* they see in us. That is a tough question to ask...I mean *really* ask. My Dad taught me the principle of “don’t ask a question you don’t already know the answer to.” Also, “don’t ask a question that you don’t want the answer to.” Both of these are challenging and humbling at the same time.

Back to the lesson, try it this way; If I had to describe someone with one word, what would that word be?

Matthew 16:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

That is such a powerful question, “But what about you? Who do you say I am?”

Would we have the courage to ask Jesus that question about us?

Discussion: What one word would you use to describe the man to your right?

2. There is something on your face

What do people see when they look at us? What do we see when we look in the mirror?

Psalm 34:5 (NIV)

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

Is there anything on my face?

If I had lettuce in my teeth, would you tell me?

John 21:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

If we are to follow Jesus, we should be doing the same. This leads to discipleship. Mike gave us a great question to ponder, “Discipleship maker, or Content Taker. Which am I?” More about that when Mike is back.

3. Reckoning – Inner Grief...The Scary Piece to Peace

This is the title Mike gave this section, and it should hit us hard. He opened up with two verses from Luke 19.

Luke 19:41-42 (NIV)

⁴¹ As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴² and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.”

When did Jesus say this?

Luke 19:28-40 (NIV)

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴ They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

We then received a huge challenge from the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 3:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ¹⁸ When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ¹⁹ But if

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sin; but you will have saved yourself.

What if the Lord said those same words to me?

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

OK...Jesus was talking to His disciples, not me.

- Would I share the Gospel with a stranger?
- Would I share the Gospel with a co-worker or neighbor?
- Would I share the Gospel with a friend?
- Would I share the Gospel with a close friend?
- Would I share the Gospel with a family member?
- What if my life depended on it? What if *their* life depended on it? **It DOES!**

What is the worst thing that can happen? We aren't friends anymore? No, the worst things would be not sharing and having them come to you one day, knowing Jesus and asking, "why didn't you tell me?"

Question to ponder: Who am I avoiding sharing the Gospel with? Don't think about it, you already know. Say their name out loud.

4. It Looks Like You Stepped in Something Buddy

Even worse than something in your teeth that goes unnoticed only by you, is when you step in something that has no place on your shoes. Lord have mercy if you are wearing sandals. Blech.

What about when we step in something that we don't notice.

What should we do when we notice "poo on the shoe" of a brother? Depending on the person, we might be quick to point it out, or we might avoid the topic all together.

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

The order matters!

The action matters too.

5. What Drives Me?

Not what do I drive, but what drives me?

Mike challenged us with "who". Michael then challenged us with "what".

What do I delight in?

Psalm 1:2 speaks of having our delight in the law of the Lord. With us under the new covenant, we are not under the law of the Old Testament. So how can this verse apply to us?

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

What is the law of the Lord?

Matthew 22:34-40 (NIV)

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Ok, so who is my neighbor?

Matthew 25:34-40 (NIV)

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, **whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.**’

Discussion: How am I doing loving my neighbor?

6. Compromises

In Nehemiah 13 we read about the Israelites compromising. While some compromise might be sudden, most of the time they are a slow fade.

- Seemingly innocent glances where we shouldn't be
- Habits the form over time, “it's just one, I can stop any time.”
- Inappropriate language
- Inappropriate joking
- Gossip.

If I look to see who is around before I do or say something, I might be compromising.

When is a compromise OK? Having a salad instead of steak because that is where “she” wants to eat?

That one is probably OK 😊

What about compromising on God's word and direction?

It's OK to compromise for family though, right?

Discussion: Where have I allowed compromise to creep into my life?

Hate me now, or hate me later.

May Discussion
Beatitude #7 Peacemaker, and the Parable of the Drag Net
By: James Castruccio

7. There are Plenty of Fish in the Sea

Thanks Mom! I can't tell you how many times in my early life my mom told me that.

Speaking of fish in the sea, the picture Michael drew about the net was helpful as he led us through the parable of the drag net. There will be a day when we are in the net. We don't know when. I would rather be busy doing the Lord's work, than taking a nap (so to speak).

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus closed it with a sobering call for us.

Matthew 25: 10-13 (NIV)

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour".

Keep watch because we do not know the day or hour of his return.

Last week Dan said, "eternity matters." Absolutely!

How am I investing in eternity?

Back to the earlier question, who do I need to share the gospel with?

Preach the Gospel at all times and if necessary, use words.

We need to find the balance between both, words and action as both are important. We first need to invest in the person and build a relationship.

Pope Benedict has said, "It is not a matter of preaching a word of consolation, but rather a word which **disrupts**, which calls to conversion and which opens the way to an encounter with the one through whom a new humanity flowers".

There is that word from last month, disrupt.

8. Bottom Line(s)

Michael closed his lesson asking us for one question we thought of from this parable. Several of us came up with the same question, "Am I ready?"

Now that I am over 50, I need to look at my remaining time differently. In the first half of life we have the "one more day" approach. In the second half, we need to consider the reality that it is "one less day". This is sobering but an important reminder to get busy doing the Lord's work.

As Tim Chen said, "Plan your work and work your plan".

Discussion: What do I need to get busy doing?

Closing Questions:

- Will people be surprised to not see me in heaven?
- Will people be surprised to see me in heaven?