

## THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

**"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."  
Exodus 20:7**

**A. The Command Itself:** Read Exodus 20:7

1. What are two words that we commonly use to describe the breaking of this command?

Matthew 26:74

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2. Look up in a dictionary the meaning of the word "vain". Notice that to use the Lord's name in vain would be to use it flippantly, lightly, deceitfully, or profanely; in an empty or meaningless fashion.
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**B. An Old Testament Example:** A man who was half Israelite and half Egyptian did not obey this command once. Read what happened to him in Leviticus 24:10-16:

1. What was this man doing? Leviticus 24:10
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2. In what two ways did he sin? Leviticus 24:11
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3. What two things did they do with the man?

a. Leviticus 24:11 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Leviticus 24:12 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was to decide what his punishment would be? Leviticus 24:12, 13
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5. What punishment was assigned to him? Leviticus 24:14b, 16a
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6. Who was to help carry out this punishment? Leviticus 24:14b, c
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**C. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. What did Jesus say about this command in the New Testament? Matthew 5:34-37
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2. Notice how James condensed these words in his letter: James 5:12.
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**D. The Command in Present-Day Life:**

1. Why do people who swear usually do so? (*THINK!*)
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2. If one feels he has to swear on certain occasions, what might that prove about his ordinary conversations? (*THINK!*)
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3. Are we taking God's name in vain when we:
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- a. listen to others take His name in vain and laugh at them, or show approval of them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. use words that are taken from God's name, such as Lordy, golly, gosh, gee, Holy Moses, Holy cow, gracious, law, Amen, etc.?  
(See Matthew 5:37) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. tell dirty jokes, or joke about God and His Word, baptism, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. sing songs we don't mean, or sacrilegious songs? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. pray just to be heard, when we don't really mean it? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. pray selfishly, instead of for God's glory? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. make useless repetition of God's name in prayer? (*THINK...*would you use your friend's name that often in conversation?) \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. profess Christianity, but don't live it? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Notice what the proper attitude toward the name of the Lord would be:
- a. Psalm 148:13: "Praise the Name of the Lord."
  - b. Psalm 100:4: "Bless His Name."
  - c. Psalm 66:2: "Sing forth the honor of His name."
  - d. Psalm 34:3: "Exalt His name."
  - e. Psalm 111:9: "Holy and awesome is His name."

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do I refrain from all wrong usage of the Lord's name? (See Exodus 20:7b)  
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2. Do I have an attitude of utmost reverence and love for the Lord's name?  
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