

"THE CHANGED NAME"

GEN.35; 9-10

" 3519-15

All of us are familiar with the Beatitudes of the N.T. but do not think, very often, that there are also Beatitudes of the O.T.

Our text to-night is one of the Beatitudes of the O.T. and has been called the Beatitude of a changed name.

It is but natural for us to be very sensitive about our name for it is our very self. We are not altogether comfortable if some one mis-spells it. When I was a young minister I received a letter addressed to Rev. J.D.Rotten and I did not feel altogether happy about it. Back there I was serving a church in which there was a family by the name of Turnipseed. Mr. Turnipseed was a very nice old gentleman and always tried to make visitors feel welcome. We were having a Q.C. and some folks from town were out there to help make way with the dinner on the ground. A traveling man happened to come out that day and around the dinner Mr. Turnip seed was being nice and went up to this traveling man and said, "Turnipseed is my name." The man thought he was trying to be funny and replied, "cabbage seed is my name.?"

God Himself was jealous about his name. One whole commandment out of ten is devoted to holding up the sanctity of that name. The first petition of the Lord's prayer is for hallowing it. You hear God say, "I am the Lord that is my name..and my glory I will not give another." Further He says: "I will sanctify my great name."

Let us observe some things involved in changing a name:

1. It often indicates the change of character. You will recall the type of life Jacob lived at first regarding his brother's birthright etc. He needed a change in character for his first name meant supplanter, heel-catcher, and deceiver. Jacob had been away a long time and of course wanted to come back home. In his thoughts he desired to make things right with Esau and one night he wrestled with an angel. This was years before this text and was told, "Thy name shall no more be called Jacob but Israel...Prince of God. What a change!!! His renewed nature called for a fresh name."

Some times names are amusing and the combination of names unfortunate. Up in my native section of the state there was a family name that was reverred...Babb. Also there was a family that my home town was named for Boone. The town Boonville took its name from the family name Boone. Two of the young men Mr. Boone and Mr. Babb opened a grocery store and got a sign painter to paint their combined name on the glass front. As people passed by next morning there it was "BABB BOON" Grocery Store.

*Mixing two good Chemicals - Man + woman*  
But there is nothing amusing about the combination of Prince and God...His new name Prince of God. You remember the terrible persecuter Saul of Tarsus. Connected with Christ he received a new name PAUL the apostle of Jesus Christ.

A man ruins his name and gets disturbed and flees to another country and changes his name that he may win for it the praise and honor his former name had lost.

But let's look at the most vital illustration of all: When we, in deep humiliation, Godly sorrow for our sins, and we genuinely repent our names are changed from UN-BELIEVER TO BELIEVER. And that reversal of our name should mean a complete change in our character. Just to take on the name and our character not change it is just like a brand on a bale of goods. Suppose the brand is there but the goods are worse than shoddy.

2. In the second place a changed name means a changed personality. A man becomes the owner of an ancestral estate. He is to alter his name to the old family name. In the process of time former acquaintances pass on and he is known as Lord so and so. Not any longer Mr. Smith but Lord so and so. Something of this elevation should come to us when we become disciples of Jesus. We should so live that we might be spoken of not as that gutter rat but as persons that have been with Christ. A new Name. So that we may say, "I live yet not I but Christ liveth in me." We have died and out of the ashes a new personality has arisen.
3. In the third place the changed name carries with it entirely changed prospects. Don't you know that Jacob felt his horizon widen out after God told him that now he was no longer a heel catcher but a prince in His sight?

*Principle of unity*  
1915

In the old days there was a ship coming from England to America. A rich couple was in the first class apartments of the vessel. They had all the world could give except a child to love. In the steerage end of the vessel there was a poor husband and wife with several rosy cheeked children. The wealthy couple offered to adopt one of the children and give it their name and every advantage possible. The parents asked that they be given a day to think it over. The rich couple longed for the next day to come and hear them say, "Take that one." But they said? "We have no one to give away"

But if they could have consented the child would have had a new name and would have passed from poverty to riches from want to all the heart desired. Maybe that would not have been best for that child but we can commend to every sinsick soul, to every one in poverty spiritually who bears a sinners name should accept adoption as a child of Christ and obtain the new outlook on life looking up to Him whose name is above every name.

4. A changed name means changed relationships. If God has accepted you and given you a new name then your relationship to Him has changed and you are on a new footing. We should never forget that such change in relationship brings with it renewed obligations

5. Finally. The changed name is to be looked upon as a special favor. This is what it meant to Jacob.

You remember that Jesus blotted out for Simon his old name of the flesh and gave him a new name Peter or rock. But Peter denied his Lord and the first chance Jesus had after the Resurrection He stripped Peter of his spiritual name Peter or rock and addressed him simply as Simon son of Jonas" So be careful a fter your name is new that you do not lose it but strive to live in Christ's favor and keep it.

Here are the rewards to those who keep it. "To him that overcometh will I give a white stone and in the stone a new name." Him that overcometh, I will write upon him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God and mine own new name."

