

SPRINKLE A BIT OF “JESUS” ON TOP



Preachers do it.
Politicians do it.
Christian car salesmen do it.

Do we do it?

We have a “ministry.”

A career.
An agenda.
An exciting personal goal.

If we sprinkle a bit of “Jesus” on top, or mix a little “Jesus” in the message, it opens up a whole new market.

Sometimes we do it so unconsciously that we believe we’re actually “preaching the gospel.”

But the Spirit of the Lord says,

“This is my gospel?”

“This is the Kingdom?”

Sometimes we use the name of Jesus without realizing what we’re doing.

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to pronounce the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, mastered all of them, and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Acts 19



Jesus' name is not a trademark.

Jesus' name is not magic.

Jesus' name is not a little “spiritual touch” we add to our agenda, a little icing on our cake.

Jesus' name is holy beyond comprehension.



Demons tremble before that name.

Those who know him bow the knee.

“On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.’”

Matthew 7



Prayer: Lord, forgive us if we are taking your name lightly, trying to manipulate it, sprinkling it around to get our way, using it like a magic wand. Help us realize how holy your name truly is, to tremble at the power of it, and to fear manipulating or marketing your name in any way. And Lord Jesus, help us to draw close, to listen, to love you, to love your words, to desire your holy will so much ...that when we call on your name it is done with deep awe, deep faith, and deep love that causes you to claim us and draw us ever closer to you. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber May 2020

Featured Artist: Wayne Forte at wayneforte.com except for “The Assault on the Seven Sons of Sceva” by Jacob Jordaens(1655)

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