



Go Deeper, 5th Nov 2023: Be an Advert for God

Dear Miners,

I have to say I really enjoyed the chance to show a bit of the Life of Brian, the scene where a crowd gather to stone a man for saying Jehovah. This brought us to rethinking the 2nd or 3rd commandment (depending on how you count them): Do not take the name of the Lord in vain. Or rather do not BEAR the name in vain. Carmen Imes writes of bearing God's name as being like having an invisible tattoo, walking around in the world as an identifiable member of God's Kingdom, representing God to the world as an ambassador of the King. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, Let us aspire to live Christian lives 'that make non believers question their unbelief.' What would such a life look like?

In our sermon slot, we thought about how we could better do that, and what is hard about that.

- **What do you find hard about bearing God's name?** Is it how you behave, such as treating people with love, especially when you are cross with them (Real wisdom from a 9-year old this week!). Is it being brave enough to let people know about your faith?
- **What might you be called to do differently?** Do you feel bad about how good a job you do as one of Jesus' 'brand ambassadors?' There's no shame in this, but God does sometimes convict us and show us gently where we might be called to do better. Is it living with more space and peace, is it being more generous, is it driving differently, is it being less judgemental? These all challenges we heard on Sunday.
- This is very much a lifelong discipleship activity, we never arrive. **How do / might you hear from God about this?** Have you ever felt convicted? Is it through a sense of conviction in prayer, at home or at church? Is it through close Christian friends offering loving correction, perhaps in a small group?

If you have anything you would like to share, particularly about how St Wilfrid's could be a better witness, do let me know, or if you would like to talk about anything this has raised for you. As ever, questions for the next AMA are always much appreciated!

Every Blessing

Rob

Deeper Stuff

[Wikipedia](#) has a good breakdown of the different ways Christian traditions number the 10 commandments.

My continuing guides through Exodus have been [Dr Carmen Imes, Bearing God's Name](#), and [Pete Enns, Exodus for Normal People](#).