

The Bark of the Bog Owl

Not If But How

November 12, 2023

How do you know when God calls you to defend his name?

When you do decided the time is now, what should it look like?

...to speak up?
...to defend his honor?

Does God's name have that kind of power?

Father Carlos Martins:
Exorcisms & Jesus' name

To the extent it does, what's your role in upholding it?

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David & Goliath

Maybe a better question is something like, in these present circumstances, *how* is God calling me to honor his Name and His faithfulness?

1 Samuel 17v26, 36
26 David said to the men who stood by him, 'What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine, and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?...**36** Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.'

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p. 145 - "What do you mean? He stood right there and insulted our entire army, our king, and our God."

p. 155-156 - "I have seen him, Your Majesty. I have heard his cruelty and the thousand men he has slain. But I also know him to be a boaster and a blasphemer against the One True God....Your Majesty, I cannot hear our enemies speak against Corenwald and the One God without giving answer."

p. 165 - "If I am defeated tomorrow, I want to die as I have lived - a shepherd boy, with the sun on my forehead and the breeze in my hair. But if I overcome, everyone must know that the One God, and not Aidan Errolson, is the Champion of Corenwald. Neither arms nor armor can deliver Corenwald - only the arm of the One God."

Matthew 6v9b
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

Maybe it's not "If?", or "When?" but "How?" As in, "In this situation how do I honor God?"

Dear Father -

I'm not sure I can explain why I'm doing this, but I imagine it's what you would do if you were here. The first time I met the Truthspeaker, he told me to love goodness more than I fear evil. I kept thinking I had heard that advice somewhere before. It just now dawned on me: I had never heard it before, but every day of my life I had seen it in a father who always, always made sure his sons remembered what sort of God we serve. I trust I shall see you soon.

Your devoted son,
Aidan
(p. 168)

1 Thessalonians 5v15-19
See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.

What would it look like to care that much about the honor of God's name?

Michael Ward

"To understand [a person] you have to know what was happening in the world when [they were] twenty."
_ Napoleon

What were Paul's circumstances?

Philippians 4v4-7
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What if we I/we have developed an unhealthy bias for not talking about God in public space?

9/11, New Atheism, and the Four Horsemen