

## A NAME I DID REMEMBER

Something my daughter always gets a laugh at is how bad I am when it comes to remembering and pronouncing names. This is often the case when I talk with her about TV shows we might watch together. It does not matter how many episodes I have watched in the series, when I begin discussing a show with her, I will either forget the name of a certain character or come up with a completely different name for him or her. I seem to have the same issue when it comes to remembering the names of some of her friends too. I will sometimes ask about one of her friends and say their name, only to receive a blank expression back from my daughter. After some awkward silence, she will say to me, **“Dad. I don’t have a friend by that name. Are you meaning my friend (insert name).”** When she says the name, naturally I reply, "Yes, that's who I mean."

This problem I have with remembering names also pops up at times in meetings I moderate. This past Sunday I was chairing a meeting after church, and I knew the name of the individual making the motion, but do you think I could recall it when I needed to. Thankfully the individual saved me by saying his name out loud.

Remembering names can be difficult for me, but so too can pronouncing them. There is a certain basketball player in the NBA that Coral and I will talk about at times. Every time I say this player's name, I pronounce it wrong. Even when my daughter reminds me of the proper pronunciation, I will still say it wrong the next time I bring his name up.

I know what many of you might be thinking right about now. Believe me this issue has not arisen since I qualified for the senior's discount at Shopper's Drug Mart. I have struggled with remembering names most of my life. My memory is really good however when it comes to recalling trivial matters, recalling entire sermons that I have written, or recalling my cheap nature.

This weekend I shocked my daughter by remembering a name. Our neighbor's oldest daughter recently purchased a puppy. I got to meet the dog for the first time this past weekend. When I told my daughter about this new puppy, she asked what its name was. With no hesitation at all, I said the dog's name was Bambi. You can imagine my daughter's shock when I was able to do this. Naturally she had to remind me, **“Dad, why is it you can remember a dog’s name but not a person’s?”** It is one of those mysteries I have not been able to figure out yet.

Remembering names may not be my strength but this incident over the weekend reminded me how God's name is His strength, and remembering it, gives us strength too. This truth comes out in a conversation that Moses had with God at the burning bush. When God asked Moses to be the one to go to Pharaoh and lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, he had many excuses for why he did not feel qualified to do so. One of the protests Moses made was:

**"If I go to the people of Israel and tell them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name? Then what should I tell them. God replied to Moses, "I AM Who I AM." Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: Yahweh, the God of your ancestors-the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob- has sent me to you. This is my eternal name, my name to remember for all generations. (Exodus 3:13-15)**

The reason why Moses wanted to know God's name was because the Egyptians had many gods by different names, and if the people asked, Moses could provide the Hebrew people with the name of the One who sent him. When God shared His name as "I AM", He was revealing His eternal power and unchangeable character. By sharing His name, God wanted Moses and the people to find assurance and peace trusting in the security, stability, and power that comes from His unchangeable character.

The good news for us is the "I AM" who appeared to Moses is the same God who we follow and enjoy today. Because God's nature is stable and trustworthy, we can find strength and security in Him which cannot be found in a world where values, morals, standards, and laws constantly change. God wanted Moses and the people of Israel to remember His name back then. In these constantly changing times in which we live, may we remember God's name too, so that we can hold onto His power and unchanging character in these turbulent times.

As for me, I will keep working to get better at remembering people's names. Just a fair warning: if I happen to remember your dog's name before I remember yours it will not be the first time that has happened.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean