Day 2

"I have manifested your NAME to the people whom you gave me out of the world . . . I made known to them your NAME, and I will continue to make it known." John 17:6

Key Thought: God manifests His NAME to us!

People are very particular about names. And for good reason. Naming a newborn child is important because we want it to have special meaning and significance. A name carries with it a specific reputation, whether good or bad. A name represents who we are, our nature, our character, and our identity as a person.

Each and every one of God's names are important because they reveal unique things about who He is, His nature, and His character. In the Old Testament God goes by a number of names. For example, Elohim which is translated "God" means "all-powerful one." And Yahweh which is translated "LORD" means "self-existent one." These names reveal God as the eternal creator and sustainer of everything that exists.

How does Jesus manifest God's name to us? In John 17:6 Jesus said that He "manifested God's name to the people whom (He) gave (Him) out of the world." Again, in John 17:26 Jesus said, "**I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known.**"   By Jesus revealing Himself to us, He revealed God's name to us. It is through Jesus Christ that we get to know who God is, His nature, and His character.

What are some of the names of God that Jesus Christ manifested when He came as a man? Before Jesus was born an angel of the Lord said to His father Joseph in Matthew 1:21,"She will bear a son, and **you shall call His name Jesus**, for He will save His people from their sins."   Joseph and Mary were instructed to name their newborn son Jesus for a very specific purpose. The name Jesus is derived from the Old Testament name Joshua which means "Savior". Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection were for the purpose of saving us from the punishment we deserve for our sin. God didn't send His son to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. What an important name! That's why we need to know God by His name, Jesus!

Matthew 1:22 goes on to say, "all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and **they shall call His name Immanuel'** (which means, God with us.)" Jesus was more than a human being, He was God Himself. Jesus was not just a good man or a great teacher, He was God Himself in the flesh.

It is this Jesus that Romans 10:9-13 says, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved . . . the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing riches on all who call on Him. For '**everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**'". If we don't know God's saving name, we cannot be saved. If we don't call on God through Jesus Christ we cannot be saved.

In fact, Acts 4:12 says, "there is salvation in no one else, for **there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**" It's pretty straight forward, God has manifested Himself to us as a God who saves through Jesus and Jesus alone. The only way to have a relationship with God is through Jesus! God gave His Son the name Jesus for a very specific purpose, that He might save you from your sins!

What does the name Jesus mean to you personally?

Questions to Ponder
   1. When you hear the name JESUS what comes to mind?
   2. What other names do people trust in to be saved?
      Does the Bible say it is possible to gain salvation through these names?
   3. Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ?

Possible Prayer Points
   1. Thank God for making His name known to you through Jesus Christ
   2. Ask God that He would manifest Himself to you through Jesus Christ
   3. If you want to be saved from your sin, pray and confess that Jesus is Lord and call the name of Jesus right now

How do you think you should relate with God as a result of Him trying to relate to you in this way?