



# “Tuesdays” with Pastor Jake

*Where Theology Touches Life*

Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>  
in the year of our Lord, 2024



## What’s in a Name?

It happened a couple of years ago, but I remember as if it were just yesterday.

It was at my niece’s daughter’s High School graduation. For some unknown and unfortunate reason, the town in which she graduated had a supposed New York State rule that prohibited prayers during a graduation ceremony – as if in a pluralistic society, where respect for the views and feelings of others are to be tolerated, someone would be seriously injured if someone offered a prayer! You heard the story of the valedictorian who sneezed on purpose during her speech to her fellow graduating seniors? She did so that the other seniors could reply – *without threat of retribution*, “God Bless You!”

But I digress...back to the event.....

Apparently, to get around the rule, the administration invited a United Methodist minister to offer some sort of spiritual ‘*thoughts*’ to open the graduation ceremonies. I can understand the challenge, but was troubled that she referenced some sort of unknown, unnamed, ‘creative’ spirit and implored *its* help for these graduating seniors.

What bothered me was that this unknown,

When I looked at this minister, I leaned Sybill Trelawney” (of Harry Potter fame). I the name of this Divination professor, she sorry, you’re mistaken. I have a name, and it semblance in our appearance, but I assure you



or unnamed ‘spirit’ does indeed, have a Name! over and said to Marilyn, “she looks like Professor would imagine if I went up to her and addressed her by might have been offended. She might have said, “I’m is *not* Sybill Trelawney. There might be some I am *not* the one of whom you speak!”

Might that not be true of God as well?

He has a Name.

It was originally declared to Moses when He commissioned him to be the means through which He would deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

*Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”*

*God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM’ has sent me to you.”*

The words “I AM” in Hebrew form what is known as the ‘tetragrammaton’ – i.e., the four letters - יהוה pronounced, *Yahweh* (or if you Latinize it, ‘Jehovah’). The point being, God has a name – it is *Yahweh* – the self-existing God who has always been.

Now here’s where it gets interesting.

Some people believe we all worship the same God, we just call Him (or in some circles, ‘Her’) by different *names*. Few things would be further from the truth. If we accept Scripture as our source for truth and guidance, consider:

[a] It’s a matter of record, that when some of the Israelites worshipped “Baal,” – i.e., a god of a different name, God judged them as idolaters. He didn’t say they really were worshipping Him, just under a pseudonym. The worship of any other ‘god,’ other than *Yahweh* is idolatry. *Yahweh* has a name, and it *isn’t* Allah, Buddha, or one of the thousands of other named ‘gods.’ This isn’t meant to be offensive, but clarifying.

[b] A name is not vacuous. If we talk about Professor Trelawney, we can distinguish and identify her from other professors by her characteristics. To *misrepresent* her character would be to describe someone *other* than who she is! When Aaron acquiesced to the clamoring of the people and created the ‘golden calf,’ he described the golden calf as ‘*Yahweh*,’ which brought a swift and terrible judgment. *Yahweh* Himself, declares:

*"I am God, and there is no other and there is none like me."*

To worship a god by another name, or to misrepresent Yahweh is idolatry.

[c] Yahweh's name is to be revered, and not taken in vain. And just like we have 'nick names' that identify us, in some sense Yahweh is referred to as God, Adonai, LORD. To say 'Oh God this....' or 'Oh God that....,' is a terrible misuse of his name.

Because Yahweh identifies Himself as 'triune' (Trinity), we can rightly sing:

*"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.  
Dear name! the rock on which I build, my shield and hiding place;  
my never failing treasure, filled with boundless stores of grace!  
Till then I would Thy love proclaim with ev'ry fleeting breath;  
and may the music of Thy name refresh my soul in death."*

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## These might hurt!



#1. What does no man want, yet no man wants to lose?

#2. Jed Recluse climbed the castle stairs to his ultra private bathroom. The windowless room was constructed of concrete blocks and stone. As Jed closed the large wooden door, he heard the outside latch fall shut, locking him in. Without considering the possibilities, Jed turned on the taps to take a bath and ponder his escape. When the bathtub was full Jed went to turn the water off, but both taps were stripped and broken so the water could not be stopped. Jed was not only locked in, but he could not turn the water off. Since the room was water tight, and the water was beginning to cover the floor, how would Jed keep from drowning?

#3. Using one set of letters in the same order, can you fill in the blanks and make a normal sentence?

[Clue: N & T are the first of four letters]

**A \_o\_a\_l\_ doctor had \_o\_ \_a\_l\_ and therefore was \_o\_ a\_l\_ to operate.**

#4. Barney Dribble is carrying a pillowcase full of feathers. Hardy Pyle is carrying three pillow cases the same size as Barney's, yet Hardy's load is lighter. How can this be?

### From Laura Pascoe:

What is the difference between an Elephant and a 'Zippo'?



#### DID YOU KNOW?

HUGS THAT LAST OVER 20 SECONDS RELEASES CHEMICALS IN YOUR BODY CALLED "OXYTOCIN" THAT MAKES YOU TRUST SOMEONE MORE.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

THE NSF ESTIMATED THAT OUR BRAINS PRODUCE AS MANY AS 12,000 TO 50,000 THOUGHTS PER DAY DEPENDING ON HOW DEEP A THINKER YOU ARE.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

IF THE HUMAN EYE WAS A DIGITAL CAMERA, IT WOULD HAVE 576 MEGAPIXELS.

**Disclaimer:** Marge from Beil Court reminded me that she needs no repairs or replacement parts!!!!

1. A lawsuit! 2. He'd pull the plug in the tub! 3. N.T.B.E. 4. Hardy's pillow cases are empty!  
And from Laura Pascoe: The Difference? An Elephant is heavy and a 'zippo' is a little lighter!