

## Advent Calendar: Day 10

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts  
Jeremiah 33:12-16, Romans 13:8-12, Matthew 1:18-25

### Matthew 1:21b

**"you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

Some within the traditions of the church talk about the power of the name of Jesus and use His name as a sort of magical incantation that absolves problems and dispenses with evil. While there is certainly all power in Jesus (a power he sets aside to go to the cross for us), that power is not bound up for us to manipulate or control by the use of his name but rather to receive as faithful followers who submit to His will and serve in prospering His work. However, there is power in the name of Jesus to remind us that intrinsic to His divinely given name is a declaration of his divinely destined purpose to save us. So in times of doubt, fear, and trouble, remembering the name of our Lord also recalls the powerful proclamation that he has come to save us. Jesus means "God saves." This central promise is bound in the destiny foretold by his naming, realized in the fulfillment of that destiny upon the cross, and celebrated in His victory from the grave! Know what Jesus means to you: deliverance, redemption, renewal, resurrection,... Salvation!

What is the etymology (history and meaning) of your name? What would you like your name to mean to others when they call upon you? What meanings are evoked in your heart and mind when you call upon Jesus? When others hear the name "Jesus" what do you think they think of? How does the witness of Jesus' followers inform what Jesus' name means to others? Do we use Jesus' name in vain every time we use it in a way that doesn't save? How can we honor the name of Jesus and help others to know him as our Savior?