

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

*For I am Meek and Lowly - The Beatitudes:
Blessed are The Meek*

Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Apostle Paul is writing to those in Colosse who have obeyed the Law of God through Christ and have become a new spiritual person with new character elements that reflect that of one in Christ.

The beatitudes teach mankind how to become that new person.

Matthew 5:5 (Slide 2)

***Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.***

What it means to be “meek” is often misunderstood in today’s world. So many times people misjudge someone who has a character that displays meekness/ gentleness.

They feel as if that person is a pushover or someone who is weak and can easily be manipulated and mistreated. At

times someone who is meek will tolerate such behavior from others but will eventually push back.

In fact, so often the bully is surprised by the strength of the one they have characterized as weak when they are picking themselves up off the floor.

I remember in my early coaching days as an assistant that one taller, bigger young man was teasing a shorter, younger, less talented teammate. His teasing wasn't anything physical, simply harassing/ being a pest that anyone would like stopped. He thought he was being "*funny*" and that it was all in good fun because, afterall, he was just joking around.

I had warned the older boy that eventually this meek, gentle natured boy will have had enough and he will react. I believed him to be a lot stronger than the older boy was giving him credit for and that he better leave him alone because he will "*fool you one day!*"

Sure enough, he reached his breaking point and they tussled with the younger, meeker, yet, stronger boy easily coming out on top. Ironically, they became best friends afterwards.

Today, we expect the meek to lie down under adversity, to be passive, to faint under duress. We would never consider a leader in our modern society to be meek, only forceful and aggressive and to possess ruling qualities that are dominant and never submissive.

Yet, Jesus said:

Matthew 11:28-30 (Slide 3)

28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

What does He mean: ***"Come to Me?"*** *Be my follower, my disciple and I will lead you to rest! Learn to be like me.*

Then He says:

"for I am gentle and lowly in heart"

The word *meek* or *meekness* is often translated as *gentle* or *gentleness*. In the Greek, the word meekness means: *mildness of disposition/ gentleness of spirit*.

It is an attribute that the Christian must embrace as it is a fruit of the Spirit. Of those 9 fruits listed, Apostle Paul includes gentleness/ meekness.

Galatians 5:23 (Slide 4)

gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Timothy was instructed to pursue certain characteristics that would make him a strong evangelist and Christian:

1 Timothy 6:11 (Slide 5)

But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

By the world's definition "*meekness means weakness*" easily subdued, someone who lacks courage, who can't stand up for themselves, who is a pushover.....

(Slide 6) Even **Merriam-Webster's** dictionary seems to view meekness from a worldly standpoint because it is defined as "*deficient in spirit and courage.*"

Dictionary.com shares that worldview with their similar definition: "*overly submissive or compliant.*"

Why would Apostle Paul tell Timothy to pursue gentleness/ meekness and send him out as an evangelist to cower into some corner?

2 Timothy 4:2-5 (Slide 7)

2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, (Slide 8) because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Endure afflictions: indicates “Timothy, because you preach truth they will come after you.” Some likely will try to imprison and/ or kill Timothy as they did Apostle Paul.

How could the work of an Evangelist be accomplished if the one that had to **Convince, rebuke, exhort** was weak, timid, afraid and submissive? It could not be done because it took Moral Courage!

2 Timothy 1:7-8 (Slide 9)

7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God

Someone who is meek by the world's definition would not stand up for the faith and share in the suffering for the gospel but would be submissive and quiet and run from spiritual confrontation.

Our Lord was not meek as in the world's definition:

Even though He says ***"I am gentle and lowly in heart"*** when action needed to be taken, He took it!

John 2:13-17 (Slide 10)

13 Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, (Slide 11) He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, (Slide 12) *"Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"*** 17 Then**

His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

Does that sound like someone who was weak and submissive?

Jesus with all power available from the Holy Spirit to cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, emptied Himself to die on the cross for the sake of humanity being submissive to the will of His Father.

Does that sound like "He" was weak and was a coward?

He tells us to take up our cross daily and follow Him. Which implies several concepts, follow me and be like me, be willing to die for My cause.

Does that sound like the road that a weak individual would travel?

No! It takes a spiritually strong-morally courageous individual to travel the road that Jesus trod. *In short, Christianity is not for the weak but for the strong!*

When Jesus says to come after Him, He is saying be an imitator of Me. As Jesus surrendered His will to God we are to surrender our will and our life to Christ our gentle leader.

Luke 9:23 (Slide 13)

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

I read this quote from an article on meekness: *"The call of discipleship is a call to be tamed by the master."*

The idea of ***"Take My yoke upon you"*** is that our strength or will will be tamed by the master." Strength under His control.

Philippians 2:1-7 (Slide 14)

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, (Slide 15) but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, (Slide 16) 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Jesus' life was testimony of meekness and may our life be so also.

Jesus' life reflected the great strength of gentleness/meekness. We must have His mindset to ***inherit the earth***, that is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Invitation

After his conversion Apostle Paul truly took on the mind of Christ. Sacrificing his mind and body for the cause of Christ. He had a gentle spirit which was displayed in the strength in which he preached the Gospel of Christ.

Romans 1:15-16 (Slide 17)

15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Though meek and gentle in spirit, Apostle Paul spoke boldly about Christ and many received the word in meekness as is instructed in:

James 1:21 (Slide 18)

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Those that are poor in spirit understand they have a condition that they cannot remedy themselves. Those that mourn understand the reason for the condition and then receive the word with meekness, willing to be submissive to the saving Grace of the Gospel of Christ.

The gentle/ meek spirit within has the aptitude to mourn over wrong. The proud will never come to the cross and kneel but the humble and gentle in spirit will not only kneel at the cross but will mournfully/ tearfully reflect in gentleness on the saving, cleansing-blood of Christ.

Where do you find yourself this day? Have you knelt before the cross and submitted yourself in humility to the will of God by obedience to the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ by immersion into His blood? If not, don't delay.

Do you need to recommit yourself to that which you once obeyed? Do you have a spiritual need for prayer from your brethren?

Please let us know how we can serve you.....

Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

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