

Blessed are ... The Meek

- *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Mt 5:5*
- **Hear these sayings of Mine and does them:**
 - Like a wise man who built house on rock
- **Hear these sayings of Mine and does not do:**
 - Like a foolish man who built house on sand

Blessed Are ...

- Happy or fortunate: Very favorable circumstances
- For worldly things:
- Beauty, wealth, power, athletic ability, brilliance
- For Spiritual things
- *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, Eph 1:4*
- the things that led to being chosen
- *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Rom 8:30*
- These were the things God chose when crafting the gospel call and the criteria to enter heaven.

Word Definition – Vines Dictionary

- What translators do it there is no English word:
- The meaning of *prautes* “is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meeekness, mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness and pusillanimity to a greater or less extent, whereas *prautes* does nothing of the kind. Nevertheless, it is **difficult to find a rendering less open to objection than ‘meeekness’**;
- Problem is not just the word but how it is viewed
- It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the meeekness manifested by the Lord and commanded to the believer is the fruit of power.

The Greek Word Definition - Vines

It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the *meekness manifested by the Lord and commanded to the believer is the fruit of power.*

The common assumption...when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command. Described negatively, meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all.
(Vine's Expository Dictionary)

Of Course Meekness is a Fruit of Power!

- *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for **I am meek and lowly in heart**: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Mt. 11:29*
- No one has ever had the power Jesus possessed. Not only His own but to gain the help of angels.
- *Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and **He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels**? Mt 26:53*
- If meekness equaled weakness then Jesus could never have been meek.
- It is the fruit of power, because those with power have the choice to be meek. Those without power are not meek, just powerless to do anything.

Meekness is the Word

- We just need to change our view of it. We do not have to be weak to turn the other cheek or go the second mile.
- Described negatively, meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all. (Vine's Expository Dictionary).
- We are no longer at the center of our life. It is not about us. We are God's vessels for honor, doing His will and taking whatever comes because we know God will take care of it.

A Comprehensive Definition

- “*prautes...* “mild and gentle friendliness,” is the opp. of roughness... of bad temper, or sudden anger... and brusqueness...

The True Extent of Meekness

- Blessed are those with a “*mild and gentle friendliness.*”
- Blessed are those who have removed from their character any “*roughness, bad temper, sudden anger, or rudeness.*”
- Blessed are those who are “*equitable, fair, moderate, forbearing, and not insisting on the letter of the law, (epeikeia)*” when gentle and kind compassion can win over an offender.
- Blessed are those who know the *mean between the extremes of losing control in anger and indifference or being a coward...*”

Must not Underestimate the Problem

- In our culture we expect respect become become angry when we think we are not treated fairly
- When someone cuts in line,
- cuts us off on the road become irritated / Angry
- Why don't we just let it go?
- Because they have violated our rights.
- We even feel like a sissy or weakling if we follow Jesus demand to act *meekly*.
- It makes us feel we have allowed someone to take advantage of us.

Jesus Benchmark of Meekness

You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. 39 But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. 41 And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

This passage is impossible to fulfill without meekness.

Another Scale to weigh Meekness

- *You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you 45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Mt 5:38-45*
- Without meekness we cannot do this.

The True Ruler of Meekness

- *Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully.*
- *20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.*
21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: 1 Peter 2:18-25
- *This is a hard passage without meekness.*

Other Uses of Meekness in Scripture

- *Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; {each one} looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Gal 6:1*
- *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, Eph 4:1-2*
- *with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 2 Tim 2:25*

Meekness in Context

- *Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. James 3:13*
- *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; 1Pet 3:15*
- *Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; Col 3:12*
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Taming and Subduing

- Those who are meek have learned to meekly submit God's commands for they are always right.
- *Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21*
- Such meekness comes of a deep conviction of who we are:
- *I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps. Jer 10:23*

An Incorruptible Beauty

- A passage impossible to believe without meekness.
- Many women see this verse as a fruit of weakness but to do this today is a fruit of power.
- *rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of **a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.***
5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, 1Pet. 3:4-5

Commands for the Blessed Meek Ones

if you do not **believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins." Jn. 8:24

unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish. Lk. 13:5

if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom. 10:9-10

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who **believes** and **is baptized** will be saved; Mk. 16:15-16

Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins Ats 2:38

If we **confess our sins**, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.