

“MEEKNESS” THE JUICY FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Text:

Galatians 5:23: Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Galatians 6:1: Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Definition: Meekness

1. A tender, submissive spirit easily imposed upon without anger or resentment, mild mannered
2. The Greek word for meekness is: “Praotes” which means gentleness, implying humility.

Scriptural uses of the term: Meek

1. ***Numbers 12:3: (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)***
2. ***Psalms 25:9: The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach His way.***
3. ***Psalms 37:11: But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.***
4. ***Psalms 76:9: When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah.***
5. ***Psalms 147:6: The Lord lifteth up the meek: He casteth the wicked down to the ground.***
6. ***Psalms 149:4: For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation.***
7. ***Isaiah 29:19: The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.***



8. **Matthew 21:5:** *Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.*
9. **2 Corinthians 10:1:** *Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you.*
10. **Galatians 6:1:** *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*
11. **2 Timothy 2:25:** *In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;*
12. **James 3:13:** *Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.*

13. **1 Peter 3:3-4:**

³ *Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;*
⁴ *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.*



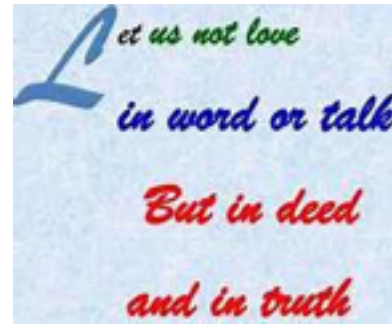
14. **1 Peter 3:15:** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

- **Meekness is not a weakness. It is not a soggy, spineless, spiritless heart condition.**
- **Meekness is divine iron imparted by the Holy Spirit into the spiritual bloodstream, and covered over with heavenly velvet.**
- **The Prophet Zephaniah (2:3) saw this divine meekness as being such a precious jewel, that he admonishes all of us to seek for it. God did tell the**

Prophet that those who possess it will be spared and hidden in the Day of the Wrath of God.

Zephaniah 2:3: *Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.*

- Meekness is Divine Love at its best. It is love so refined in our spirit, that all the coarseness and harshness is purged away, and we are easy to be entreated.
- Meekness is the supreme attribute saturating the Life of Christ Jesus.



Matthew 11:29: *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.*

- It takes a whole lot of meekness to cure us of those attributes of the old man, which cause us to be brazen, brash, bitter, and a brawler.
- A meek person is forgetful of himself, and shows care and concern for others.
- Meekness is as scarce an attribute in the church and in the world today as hen's teeth. It is rarer than pearls, or diamonds, or sapphires. It resides in the heart that is totally delivered from carnality.



- Meekness is totally free from retaliation when mistreated or insulted.
- Meekness is totally free from vanity and pride, manifesting a very humble attitude of heart.
- Meekness is exalted by Christ in the Beatitudes:

Matthew 5:1-12:

¹ *And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain: and when He was set, His disciples came unto Him:*

² *And He opened His Mouth, and taught them, saying,*

³ *"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

- 4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.***
- 5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.***
- 6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.***
- 7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.***
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.***
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.***
- 10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.***
- 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.***
- 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in Heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.***

- **Meekness is a quality of character which we ARE, more than something that we possess. For meekness possesses us when this juicy fruit of the Holy Spirit is present.**

In **1 Corinthians 4:21**, the Apostle Paul gives a stinging rebuke to the membership of the Corinthian Church because some were puffed up, proud, contentious, self-exalted and carnal. He reminds them of how he came to them in fear, and trembling, and in weakness. Now that divisions and heresies are creeping in, he asks them:



1 Corinthians 4:21: What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

Did you observe those last three words ***in the Spirit of Meekness?*** He perceives that the Lord has bequeathed to him this special fruit of the Holy Spirit, namely “Meekness”. I hope and pray that the Lord will do for you and me the very same thing. We surely need this fruit.

Illustration:

Dwight Moody was a great man of God. He was approached by a man who began in a most boastful manner, bragging about his humility. During the course of their conversation, he likened himself to Moses.

“Mr. Moody,” he said, “Since I have given up all to follow Jesus, I have heard men tell me that my face shines, even as did the face of Moses.”



Pastor Moody smilingly replied: “It is a glorious thing that the face of Moses shone, but it is more glorious thing to know that the Scripture records in:

Exodus 34:29: Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone.”

A. You or I never need to testify of having meekness, for it will testify of itself.

B. Illustration:

It is customary in the Methodist Church Conference of ministers to give their annual report and then read it from the conference floor.

Bishop Smith was presiding when this incident occurred. The preachers got up and told of their accomplishments. It seemed each one would try to out do the previous one. When all this was over, an elderly white headed veteran preacher, an old soldier of the Cross, rose to his feet. His name was Father White.

Tottering down the aisle of that great Methodist Church, he leaned heavily on his cane and meekly started his report. He had been a circuit ridding minister for years, preaching the Gospel in lumber camps and among the rough coal miners of the Coeur D’Alene’s. Everybody loved him and respected his powerful ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.



The old man’s voice faltered as he said: “I do not have much to report. Nearly a century ago, I saw the light of day. For over 60 years I have been preaching the Gospel of Jesus. I have not been able to do very much for my Lord during these later years. My heart cries out for service, but my poor faltering feet are too weak to take me where I want to go. All I have done was only accomplished through Jesus and His Power.”

Then with a vibrant voice with love from his Master, he started to recite:

***“Naught have I gotten but what I received;
Grace hath bestowed it since I have believed:
Boasting excluded, pride I abase;
I was only a sinner, but now saved by Grace.”***

You could have heard a pin drop in that vast church. Then the congregation spontaneously started to sing that beautiful old song. The brother who wrote this report of the meeting, said: “How small we felt. How little we really are after all.”

Saints that is how true meekness will manifest itself; There is no room for pride, or vanity, or boasting when meekness is possessing the heart.

- C. What a beautiful grace and fruit of the spirit is meekness. It manifests a tenderness that makes it strong. Those cold cruel words of carnal Christians and of sinners, who get irritated by conviction at the presence of meekness, merely bounce off the spiritual armor of those who are meek in the spirit.
- D. There is no more adorable an ornament that can adorn the life of a spirit-filled Christian, then meekness.

- E. In those days when Moses the prophet of God led the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promise Land, this precious fruit of the spirit was manifested in his life. He, being a type of Christian, gave us a sample of meekness, and Christ manifested it to perfection in His life.



- F. Often I think we preachers would be much better off if we rejoiced that our names are written in Heaven, rather than written up in the church bulletin or church pages of the newspaper. Quite often our successes prove to be the very rock upon which the ship of our Christian life is wrecked. Like John the Baptist, we need to say it and mean it.

John 3:30: He must increase, but I must decrease.

When the veteran apostle and preacher of the Word of God was coming to the close of his ministry, he gave this befitting and sound advice to the budding preacher Timothy:

1 Timothy 6:9-11:

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Here you can see, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that this beautiful fruit of the spirit is once again honored. Just this word of advice: Don't strive to be meek or humble — just let the Holy Spirit plant this fruit in your heart. Then you'll have the real thing, and not a counterfeit.

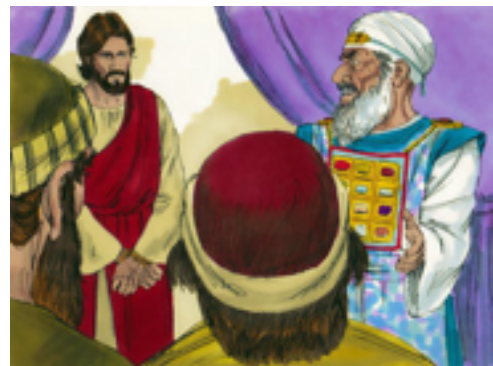
G. Meekness Illustrated in the Life of Christ and His martyr Stephen.

The Lord Jesus is saying to us:

Matthew 11:29b: . . . for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Our Lord manifested it before the Council, and on the Cross, and in His ministry, especially when confronted by His religious adversaries.

Stephen's miracle-working ministry brought many to Christ. His adversaries felt threatened, as so many people were being saved and becoming followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.



They challenged Stephen, threatened him, and then placed him on trial. His very attitude and answers with such a meek and calm spirit put them to shame. His face shone like that of an angel. His attitude, when being

stoned to death, spoke loudest to Saul who later became Paul, the Apostle. It brought Saul (Paul) to Christ and to salvation.

Stephen manifested such meekness when he was being threatened, and when he was being stoned to death. He refused to threaten or retaliate against them. Instead of being full of fear, or hatred, or fury against those who were stoning him, he called on the Lord Jesus asking Him to receive his spirit.



Acts 7:60: And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.



With those pleas for forgiveness, he manifested the true spirit of meekness. For meekness does not strike back, or ask God for judgment on his murderers. His Christlike meekness reminds us of those mortal words of the Lord Jesus on the cross:

Luke 23:34: Then said Jesus, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And they parted His raiment, and cast lots.

- H. In closing: When privileged to give our Christian testimony as to how the Lord Jesus saved us from our sins, or when explaining our scriptural convictions to others, we are obliged to be ready always to give an answer for the hope which is living in us, in a spirit of meekness and humility — not with any contentious or argumentative spirit when we are confronted or challenged, or scorned.

1 Peter 3:15: But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Invitation:

James 1:21: Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.

If you receive the Word of God with a meek and teachable spirit, Christ will save your soul this very moment, if you have never been born-again of the Spirit of God.

John 3:5-7:

⁵ Jesus answered, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

Here is how:

- 1. Repent for all the sins you have committed. That means you must truly be sorry for what you have done, turn away from whatever would cause you to sin now and in the future, and resolve with God's help to sin no more.**
- 2. Believe Jesus is the Son of God Whose Shed Blood washes away your sin.**
- 3. Call upon the Lord, and ask Him to forgive you and to cleanse you from all your sins and unrighteousness.**
- 4. Receive His forgiveness.**
- 5. Confess to others that Jesus is your Lord and Savior, and tell them what He has done for you.**



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