

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

July 2023

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth, - Matthew 5:5

Meek Gk.= praos / mild, gentle, soft, longsuffering, humble, considerate

It was often used to describe a soothing medicine, a gentle breeze, a wild colt broken and domesticated, which is then useful to its master/trainer because of its obedience to the reins. The meek are not weak. They have power, but it is under control for they know when to use it and when to refrain. They are able to endure abuse with patience and without resentment. The wind under control is soothing but can be very destructive when out of control.

Meekness consists not in a person's outward behavior only; nor yet in his relations to his fellow men - it is an inward wrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God - Vines Expository Dict.

Meekness is primarily a God-ward attitude. The meek are yielded and totally submitted to God. They are teachable and humbly accept God's will (Luke 1:38, Job 1:21, 13:15; Acts 9:6, Matthew 26:39,42). The meek get angry at the right time and never get angry at the wrong time. The Bible says: 'Be angry and do not sin.' Ephesians 4:26 NKJV, 'In your anger, do not sin' NIV. Jesus never got angry when he was insulted or things did not go his way, but he did get angry when his Father's glory was at stake. He got angry for the sake of others - Mark 3:5, 11:15. The meek have a selfless and righteous anger. There is a time for anger and for restraint and Jesus knew the difference. Some times he showed **inner strength not to react or defend himself** - Matthew 11:29, 21:5, 26:62-63, 27:11-14. It's good to know the secret of bearing unjust suffering - 1 Peter 2:19-23.

The meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that 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. - Vines Expository Dictionary

When Jesus came to earth and was born as a human being, he gave up his rights to operate as God, unless the heavenly Father permitted it. Jesus submitted fully to God's will and was led by the Holy Spirit at all times. - Philippians 2:1-8. Jesus described himself as meek and lowly of heart. The attitude of followers of Jesus should be the same. Our human nature is to be self-assertive, self-interested and not selfless. The meek are concerned about God's ultimate purposes before their immediate circumstances (Matthew 26:39,53-54). When we come to Christ as Savior we receive many benefits for this life and the next. However, coming under his lordship/kingship means we become his servants too. He purchased us with his blood, and now we are not our own, but belong to him and we give up our lives to do as he wishes.

You are not your own, you were bought with a price....1 Cor.6:19,20

Jesus followers not only give up their wrongs, they give up their rights, just as Jesus did on earth. Jesus was a bond-servant/ bond-slave to God's will.

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who as he already existed, did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross. - Philippians 2:5-8 NAS

Bond-servant Gk. Doulos (from deo) to bind, a slave, originally the lowest term in the scale of servitude, it came also to mean **one who gives himself up to the will of another; eg. 1 Cor. 7:23; Rom. 6:17.20, and became the most common and general term for servant as in Matt. 8:9, without any idea of bondage. Paul saw himself as **a willing slave bound to his new master.** - Vines Expository Dictionary**

**Jesus gave up heavenly privileges to come to earth.
Jesus' followers give up earthly privileges to enter heaven.**

The meek are under the bridle and reins of Jesus. This gives them restraint, control, direction, usefulness and fulfillment. Otherwise their lives would be like untamed wild horses who roam freely in vast open fields, but do not live useful lives for the benefit and enjoyment of others.

- Moses - Impulsive anger (Exodus 2:11-12) to the meekest of all - Number 12:3
- Abraham - Gave preference to Lot for the best land - Genesis 13:8-11
- Joseph - Great forbearance to his brothers who mistreated him -Gen.50:15-21
- Paul - 1 Cor. 9:15-27, 2 Cor. 10:1; Galatians 6:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:24-25
- Peter - Acts 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17, 3:13-16 - Obedience to God supersedes human authority. God gives power, love, self-control -2 Timothy 1:7
Be teachable and put on meekness - James 1:21, Colossians 3:12
- Jesus - He refrained from calling legions of angels to rescue him at his arrest and he also did not react when he was falsely accused. He submitted to God's will despite the extreme pain, pressure and injustice during the passion week.

A Wild Colt or Person Needs Their Will to be Broken

- **Recognize the voice of authority**
- **Respond by faith to the master's voice**
- **Refuse to listen to other voices**
- **Yield all rights**
- **Submit to the master, respond to the reins and slight nudges**

Although I grew up on a dairy farm, my father also had a love for horses. We had many different horses with all types of temperaments. Beauty was the most gentle

of horses which a child could safely ride. One time while riding her I had to shove off from the side of our house to get her moving. We had a lively horse named Flash that was hard to stop so we had to put barbed wire under the bridle, Over time I had a fear of riding horses based on some bad experiences. More than once I got off of horses and walked them home because they frightened me.

We had a tall newly acquired Palomino that I decided to ride. After going down the road a bit I decided to pull lightly on the reins to slow it down. Much to my surprise, it reared up its front legs very high. Needless to say I got off and walked it home. Dad had neglected to tell me that it was a circus horse trained to do that. The worse experience by my brother and a neighbor boy was with Prince, a rambunctious pony. They both got thrown off into a huge mud puddle in back of the barn. My brother lost his glasses and both boys needed 3 baths to get cleaned up (we didn't have showers back then). My sister was on a horse that got spooked and she was half off as it crashed through an electric fence into the neighbors field. (My oldest sister and my mother never did ride our horses, they missed out on some wild rides) :)

My brother in law Bernie was called upon a few times to help tame wild horses for us. Horses can detect if the rider is fearful (like me) or fearless like Bernie. Horses soon realized that Bernie was boss and eventually became tame enough for others to ride.

A Meek Person is:

MIGHTY - have learned to restrain their power

EMOTIONALLY STABLE - don't have to prove self, are patient, trustworthy, persistent, focused, poised, able to resist temptation

EDUCABLE - teachable, realize they need others

KINDHEARTED - sensitive to other's needs, unselfish

- Robert H. Schuller insights

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

INHERIT In Bible terms it means: **to enter into possession** of something which has been promised or foretold by God

THE EARTH The Jews were promised the land of Israel if they were obedient to God, Christians get the whole earth plus the complete inheritance of Christ as His joint-heirs (Romans 8:17, 1 Corinth.3:21-22, Colossians 1:16, Psalm 24:1) Perhaps even greater is the inward peace and power Christ gives to a person under His control - Romans 8:6, Psalm 37:11.

Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. - Proverbs 16:32

To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations. - Jesus / Revelation 2:26

**To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne,
just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne.**

- Jesus / Revelation 3:21

**They overcame the accuser (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by
the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as
to shrink from death.** - Revelation 12:11 NIV

- **The poor in spirit inherit the kingdom above (the kingdom of heaven)**
- **Those who mourn receive the kingdom within (inner comfort)**
- **The meek receive the kingdom around them (the earth)**

David Livingstone left a good future as a doctor in Scotland to go to Africa as a missionary. His brother chided him: 'You can bury your life in the jungles among the heathen if you want to. I am going to stay here in Britain and make a name for myself'. After a lifetime of work in Africa, David Livingstone's body was buried in England in a royal funeral but his heart was buried in Africa. The Encyclopedia Britannica gives one sentence to David's doctor brother. He is only mentioned as the brother of David Livingstone. Fourteen paragraphs are given for the life of David Livingstone. Blessed are those who give up their rights and reputation for the sake of God's kingdom for God will honor them.

BAREFOOT In Bible times going barefoot was a symbol of being a slave with no rights of their own and being in a place of humility. Moses took off his sandals at the burning bush and God promised a bountiful land to him.- Exodus 3:5,8. Joshua is promised all the land he walked on with the soles of his feet. - Josh.1:3. The prodigal son returned home barefoot but his father put sandals on his feet.
Jesus walked barefoot on his way to the cross.

To the watching world, it looked like Jesus had failed to become the King that they had hoped for. They had seen glimpses of his **lion like authority** when he confronted disease, demons and despotic religious leaders. However, they seemed to have forgotten the first description of Jesus given by John the Baptist. '**Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**'. - John 1:29. Jesus is known as the Lion of the tribe of Judah one time in Revelation (5:5) However, He is referred to as the **Lamb 28 times in Revelation**. At the center of God's throne is a Lamb (5:6) In the Greek it is '**a little lamb**'.

It is comforting to know that the person one day to rule the earth, is one who has the meekness of a lamb; one who was willing to die for those he would one day lead. He is not only a powerful ruler, but a gentle shepherd with a heart of compassion - Isaiah 40:10-11.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

JESUS IS THE MEEKEST ONE OF ALL

He Will Reign For Ever and Ever

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