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Meek is not Weak

Weekly Bible Study Schedule
Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 AM in HHR #5
(breakfast provided)
Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 PM in Office #225
(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)
Capitol Commission is non-partisan and non-denominational

NEW

***Thursday, February 23, 7:00 AM in HHR #5**
Explore themes of the Bible – video and informal conversation.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5, ESV)

It's been said this is the unappreciated beatitude. The meek are few making its name somewhat unclear. Some see meekness: as weakness; passivity; an inevitable fate; as one that avoids ambition. It's none of those traits.

The elements of a meek disposition are trust in God, committing one's ways to God, waiting patiently for God and living wisely. Essentially meekness is entire submission to God.

Four Ways of the Meek

1. Trust God

To stand in a perspective of trust is to possess a confidence in God, and a confidence that He is for you, not against you. Meekness is entire submission to God.

He will act on your behalf. A core character of God is His omnipotence. He is all powerful. However, trust is NOT a lazy faith – What will be will be. Rather a calm...God's got this one. He is good and gracious. The Lord is for you.

2. Commit Your Ways to God

Commit the happenings of your life. Your relationships, finances, occupation, anxiety – things important to you. You admit you can't handle life alone; the complexities of life are more than you can manage alone. You commit your ways to God as an act of recognition that God can handle your situation.

Psalm 55:22, instructs one to:

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”

To cast is to throw, fling, hurl, to drop your burdens ON the LORD. Think of it as you lowering and rolling your shoulder forward. The LORD invites you to roll your shoulder toward Him dropping the heavy weights of your life ON the LORD.

What's heavy for you today? What occupies your mind? What situation causes your heart to palpitate, causes your blood pressure to rise, releases adrenaline in your veins?

3. Wait Patiently for the Lord

In the face of offense, our natural response is to return the offense. For some it is to go on the defense. When we are defrauded, the inclination is to react with anger. When we are hurt, our tendency is to return the hurt.

Human nature holds onto anger that results in bitterness and resentment. If not dealt with healthily, we get emotionally stuck in the place of incident.

“Blessed are the Meek” they wait on the Lord to vindicate them. They wait patiently for the Lord to work through people and situations that will restore what's been stolen. Perhaps not the identical item or incident, and, for sure a greater element of restoration needed. The meek trust, commit the situation to the Lord while they wait for God to fight their battle. My field level observation is we generally think God takes too long to vindicate. God is mindful of timing,



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and works in the hearts of people, to include your own. God's vindication has a greater purpose than to "get the offender back".

The meek are still before the Lord, peaceful, rather than reactive. The meek don't compare what they have, to what others have. They don't try to one-up others. The meek reframe from anger, they let go of wrath. The meek know there's a day coming that will settle the score. God keeps score.

4. Live Wisely

"Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom." (James 3:13)

Wisdom's fruit is pure, peaceable, gentle and open to reason. Notice the direct relationship between wisdom and meekness.

The Man of Meekness

Moses was a great leader, prophet, and teacher of the Israelites.

"Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3)

"ANAV" Hebrew: humble, submission, bowed

Moses Summary Narrative

- Forced to leave Egypt at 40 for killing an Egyptian man
- 40 years of obscurity in Midian, a far-away land
- A God size interruption from Midian to Egypt; from a lowly shepherd to the Israelites leader

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" (Exodus 3:11)

- Character of humility "ANAV" was developed. Moses learned to depend on God, to wait on God's timing, to seek God for wisdom and power. Humility gave Moses a clear view of God and of himself. Leadership that only sees one's own position or title results in arrogance and hubris.
- Partnership with God. Israel is delivered from Pharaoh out of Egypt and into the wilderness on their way to the promise land.

The weight of leadership. Soon after the people's freedom from Egyptian bondage Moses' sister and brother, Miriam and Aaron, respectively, complained against his leadership and subsequently, against the woman he married. The Lord rebukes Miriam and Aaron and vindicates Moses. Meekness is committing your cause to God without defending oneself.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. (Ps. 37:7-11)

Psalm 37:11 echo's the third beatitude: "Blessed be the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." David undoubtedly was referring to the promise land of Israel. Jesus was referring to all the earth.

We are heirs of God; He has already given us the earth. It's simply not fully realized yet. No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.