

Wednesday: 01/09/2018

Embodying the Message and Person of Jesus

But that is not all. The means of our communication needs to be gentle, because gentleness also characterizes the subject of our communication. What we are seeking to defend or explain is Jesus himself, who is a gentle, loving shepherd. If we are not gentle in how we present the good news, how will people encounter the gentle and loving Messiah we want to point to?

And finally, in an age shaped by feuding intellectual commitments and cultural battles over religion, science, truth, and morality, how will we get a hearing by merely insisting that we have truth and reason on our side? Many have made these claims before us. Some in a spirit of aggression, some in fear, and some in arrogance. Our apologetic happens in a context, and that context is strewn with enmity, hostility, abuse, and other opposition, which ultimately contradict the very things our message lifts up. That is why our apologetic has to embody the message and person we want to communicate. Only with “gentleness and reverence” will people be able to see, verify, and be persuaded to respond to what we have to say.

In the rest of the devotionals taken from the book *The Allure of Gentleness*, many important topics will be covered concerning what it means to defend the faith in the twenty-first century, including the role of the Bible, ethics, philosophy, the history of ideas, and so on. But it will all be wasted unless the allure of gentleness pervades all that we do.

Reflect:

(Q) What are some ways that we harm our efforts and hinder people from encountering the gentle and loving Messiah we are seeking to point them to?

Devotional by: Dallas Willard

Book: *The Allure of Gentleness: Defending the Faith in the Manner of Jesus*



*Dallas Willard Ministries is excited to partner with Jeff Whitebread, who, through his work with Capitol Commission, ministers to those serving in the Pennsylvania State legislature, their staff members, and those in the lobbying community. We believe the thoughts and ideas contained in Dallas' book, *The Allure of Gentleness*, are timely guidance for those who seek to stand for truth in a manner that reflects the character of Jesus himself. Dallas acknowledged he gave up trying to get people to do things, preferring instead to inspire them to think things through on their own and come to a different view of matters. We pray that in making this material available, we can continue in his footsteps, playing our part in helping others catch a vision of life with God, becoming his apprentice, and walking in the easy yoke of Jesus — even when engaging the rough and tumble world of the public arena.*