

October 8, 2013

5 - Meek/Gentleness

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Matthew 18:1-6 This record reveals our Lord's gentleness, concern, and protectiveness for children.

Matthew 19:13-15 He did not shun children, rather he embraced them.

Luke 7:36-50 Simon the Pharisee is not the same as Simon the leper. The dissimilarity of the women and the Pharisee is outstanding. Simon's concern was allowing a sinner to touch him and not the cost of the perfume.

Wikipedia encyclopedia - Tear Catchers were commonly used during Ancient Roman times, with mourners filling glass bottles with their tears, and placing them in tombs as a symbol of their respect for the deceased. It was also used to show remorse, guilt, love, and grief. The women cried during the procession, and the more tears collected in tear bottles meant the deceased was more important. The bottles used during the Roman era were lavishly decorated and measured up to four inches in height.

Tear bottles were designed with special seals, which allowed the tears to evaporate. By the time that the tears were assumed to have evaporated, the mourning period was considered over.

Psalm 56:8 and 9 "You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle, are they not in Your book? Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; this I know, that God is for me."

John 12:1-8 He allowed Mary to come close and touch him to anoint his feet with oil.

Matthew 26:6-13 Simon the leper.

Simon was a common name – one of the twelve apostles, the father of Judas Iscariot, one of the brothers of our Lord, the Pharisee, Jew of Cyrene, the sorcerer in Acts 8, the tanner in Joppa in Acts 9:43, and the one who helped carry the cross.

The leper knew how exclusion and ostracizing felt. Jesus had no issue with Simon, rather with the disciples egged on by Judas.

Luke 8:1-3 AV The women ministered unto him.

Luke 10:38 -42 "Sat at Jesus' feet" here is literal, not figurative as it most often is used today.

John 13:21-30 Man leaning on his bosom at the last supper

Matthew 11:25-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

John 7:37 "In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."

Hebrews 5:14-16 Jesus has always been approachable, far more so than those who represent him. He is gentle, and so we should be also.

6 - The Meek/Gentle Part 2

πραῦς: pertaining to not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance, *gentle, humble, considerate, meek* in the older favorable sense (BDAG, 3rd edition, 2000)

The opposite of meek/gentle is prideful/pugnacious—the kind of person that doesn't listen to anyone and/or who is always fighting for supremacy.

Psalm 37 forms the backdrop against which we should read this beatitude (especially 37:11). The whole psalm deals with the troubling fact that many times the wicked prosper, which tempts the righteous to jealousy and impatience. The psalmist confidently encourages God's people not to fret or become angry, but to rest patiently in Him, knowing that one day God will cut the wicked off, but the meek will inherit the land.

From this psalm, we learn the indispensable necessity of faith in God to bring judgment on the world. Knowing God plans to judge the wicked frees us to forgo fighting for every scrap of justice in the present.

Insisting on fairness, although noble in some situations, often ends up binding us and stunting our ability to seek first God's Kingdom.

Jesus was meek

- Never started a liberation campaign against Rome (this did happen a generation later)
- His trial and crucifixion demonstrate a supreme trust in God along with an incredible control not to retaliate evil for evil (John 18-19)

His disciples were meek

- Peter's catch of fish (Luke 5:4-11)
- Jesus' parables to the crowds (Matthew 13:10-18; Mark 4:33-34)
- He who has ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 11:15; 13:9, 43; Mark 4:23; Luke 14:35)
- God reveals to children at heart (Luke 10:21-22; Mark 9:33-37)

We need to be meek

- Love enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)
- Become like children (Mark 10:13-16)
- Receive correction and forgive (Matthew 18:15-35)

Take a moment and search your heart to see if there is some injustice that you are harboring. Is it time to let it go? I am not talking about refusing to deal with individuals and situations that you should rectify or work through, but those that are out of your control. Stressing about the government shut down and getting all fired up about how partisan politics have crippled the nation, allowing old wounds from a friend or spouse to fester when there is no opportunity for recourse, or constantly rehashing what a co-worker did to you a while back are examples of such issues. As Christ-followers, it is our responsibility to do what we can to bring reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-25), but if it is not possible, we need to release the debt, trusting God to make it right either now or on the last day.