

I. EMBRACING MEEKNESS - THE PREMIER NEED FOR THE CHURCH

- A. Meekness is power under control. It restrains the use of power except for redemptive purposes. It must not be confused with weakness which is the absence of strength. By nature, men exploit the weak and capitalize on the failures of others. God serves us and refuses to exploit us. He values each of us. He covers our sin and rewards extravagantly for the smallest acts of service.

Lk 6:35 Love your enemies, do good...your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

- B. Meekness is the main attribute that God is looking for in His human companions. Jesus' whole life was ordered around this attribute. He loved walking in it (*Ps 45:4-7*) and it most qualified Him for future glory. From the moment Jesus was born, the Father contemplated His own humility. Anyone who truly looks at Jesus and His meekness will be left staring at a great mystery. Jesus the uncreated God, so strong, is the One who stoops down so low.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,

- C. Those who walk in meekness cannot be bought or swayed by things on the earth. They are restful on the inside as they already have more than the earth could give. A life without meekness is not a resting place for God. When we don't choose meekness, we fight and we war even as believers inside our own hearts and with others.

Is 66:1-2 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool...where is the place of My rest? 2...On this one will I look (forever God is attracted to meekness): on him who is poor (poor in spirit) and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."

Jam 4:1-2 "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires from pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war."

II. VISION TO PURSUE MEEKNESS

- A. Pursuing meekness means we understand its how God gives more of who He is to us. Many desire to have many things within the economy of God's Kingdom that are right and good. But they don't open the door into the fullness of God's presence resting on us and in us like meekness will.

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

- B. We also must understand meekness is both the most supernatural gifts of God to humanity and one of the most resisted. It is contrary to us naturally as it violates our sense of justice.

III. SETTING THE MIND TO WALK IN MEEKNESS

- A. This means we value it by agreeing with God about how He feels about it. That He will release meekness in us as we pursue it before we actually enjoy it.

- B. It calls us to a higher vision than just knowing meekness matters here, but that it also matters in the age to come when Jesus returns. It will have greater impact in the age to come. Our minds are not as familiar with the age to come and we may think I don't really want that "age to come" stuff but Jesus really cares about it here. He will actually reward you for setting your mind and heart toward meekness here.
- C. In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will serve those who lived a life of humility and watching.
Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the Master...will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that He will gird Himself and...will come and serve them.

IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF MEEKNESS FROM THE LIFE OF JESUS

- A. He was a person of no reputation or entitlement. *Phil 2:4-5*
- B. He didn't defend against accusations/No grudges- *Jn 19:10-11*
- C. His handling of interruptions *Luke 8:40*
- D. His love for children *Matt 19:13*
- E. His relationships/Family *John 2:5*
- F. The Father promised to give Jesus leadership over all the nations in the Millennium.
Ps 2:8 (the Father) will give You (Jesus)the nations for Your inheritance...
Phil 2:8-10 He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death...9 Therefore God has highly exalted Him...10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...
- G. The Holy Spirit functions as the support ministry. He is fully God yet chooses to work behind the scenes without a desire to be recognized. He is happy in humility. The Father and Son fully value Him because they have the same nature.
Jn 16:13-14 He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak...14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

V. POWER ON THE HEART TO WALK IT OUT- GRACE IS GIVEN WHEN WE ASK

- Ja 4:6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."*
- Ps 149:4 The LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble...*
- A. It humbles us to look upon the great mystery of God's meekness. Jesus put on display the riches of God's meekness. The Spirit desires to give us revelation of the dignity, beauty, and uniqueness of God's meekness.
Mt 11:29 Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart...