

I. EMBRACING MEEKNESS - THE PREMIER NEED FOR THE CHURCH

- A. Meekness is the main attribute that God is looking for in His human companions. Jesus loved walking in it (*Ps 45:4-7*) and it most qualified Him for future glory. (*Phil 2:8-10*) It is foundational to His Kingdom and Who He is.

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

II. MISTREATMENT IS THE TESTING GROUND FOR MEEKNESS

- A. One of the most important things about our spiritual lives is how we respond to mistreatment. This includes being reviled, spoken to in a demeaning way or sarcastic way, having things taken or stolen from us, or having others block our goals for honor or comfort.

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

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation;(trouble) but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

- B. Over 6 billion on planet earth will be mistreated in small ways and big ways over a lifetime. When we see it as a way to respond to the Lord the right way through meekness, our capacity grows to receive more from Him.

III. JESUS BOUGHT AND OWNS YOUR LIFE

1 Cor 6:19-20 You are not your own...²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- A. We are not our own, what you have is not yours. Therefore, He is responsible for us. The Lord Jesus owns our relationships, money, reputation, physical well-being, ministry position, and impact, etc. If somebody steals your money, they are stealing from Him. If somebody attacks your reputation, they are attacking His interest. This works if we live under the reality of His ownership. We transfer our money, reputation, and rights over to Him, and we put it in His hands.

IV. RESPONDING RIGHTLY WHEN MISTREATED- "I COMMIT MY SPIRIT"

- A. We see King David's response to the Lord in *Ps 31:5,15* when he was mistreated. Jesus echoed this same response during His greatest crisis and moment of mistreatment in *Luke 23:46*.

- B. To commit our spirit into God's hands is to commit the most important issues of our life to Him. By doing this, David brought God into the conflict.

Ps 31:4,15 Into Your hand I commit my spirit...¹⁵ My times are in Your hand...

Lk 23:46 Father, Into Your hands I commit My spirit.

- C. This refers to our relationships, reputation, money, physical well-being, ministry position, and impact. To commit them into God's hands is to make ***deep heart transactions with God*** to give them over to God's leadership.
- D. David trusted God to intervene with His ***will***, His ***way***, and His ***timing***. God will often answer the conflict in a different way and timing than we would. To commit our spirit into His hands is to embrace whatever God does in the situation.
- E. To walk this out means we respond in an opposite way. Our natural response is to reply to a person or situation with the same demeaning spirit. We believe God will make wrong things right as He wants to do.

1 Peter 2:23 When He (Jesus) was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously...

V. PROMOTION IN GOD PHIL 2:5-11

- A. The opposite of meekness is selfishness and preoccupation with ourselves. Due to our fallen nature, we think we deserve better treatment than what we are getting. We can think we need more honor, favor, and recognition and that God should make that happen.
- B. When we respond rightly to God with a gentle and meek spirit toward those who have mistreated us, we are being set up for promotion in God. This means having a vibrant and grateful spirit before God because we know we are not our own but are His fully.

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

- C. Suffering and mistreatment can only work in the life of the believer. When a follower of Jesus responds with meekness, it produces wholeheartedness and opens the door for more in God.
- D. Meekness attracts God to our lives because the lowly and meek realize everything they have is from God. He is able to promote them because no matter the size of the promotion or size of stewardship that comes from God, we carry it as His, not as powerbrokers who think it's ours.

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

- E. The reward of meekness is that no one owes us anything, thus our eyes are open to see what God has given to man. We are not weighted down with the stress of resentment and bitterness.

Gen 41:41 and Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Gen 41:52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."