

I. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

- A. If “poor of spirit” starts with our awareness of spiritual lack before God and our need for His resources, then meekness begins with the awareness of our lack before people and our indebtedness to God for the resources that He gave us.

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

- B. Our natural mindset is to see our resources (gifting, money, position of authority, etc.) as mostly belonging to us and being the fruit of our dedication and hard work. Meekness is about being pre-occupied with Jesus as our source and owning everything we have which produces gratefulness with what we have and we use it with a servant spirit and generosity. This gratefulness produces the meekness to trust God in our moments of being mistreated.

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. Walking in meekness or humility is not the same as the personality temperament of timidity that is rooted in the fear of man and low self-esteem. Meekness is to have power over our selfishness.
- D. When we are pre-occupied with ourselves we can sometimes think we deserve more honor, money and favor than what we presently have happening in our lives. This results in entitlement that demands more privilege or position because of how we esteem gifting, accomplishments and dedication.

1 Cor 4:7 or who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

II. THE MEEK ARE THE BEAUTIFUL ONES IN A CULTURE OF ANGER

- A. God delights in imparting His beauty to all who embrace humility. Meekness beautifies our lives in this age and in the age to come. God views humble or gentle responses as beautiful

Ps 149:4 The LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the humble...

- B. The Lord will raise up a victorious end-time church in the context of great social hostility (Mt. 24:10). This is the context in which love and humility will grow the fastest and deepest.

Mt 24:10-12 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another... And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”

III. MEEKNESS EXPRESSED IN OUR WORDS

- A. James gives us one of the most practical teachings on humility in the Scripture. Humility starts with our families, marriages, and children, then extends to the marketplace, friends, and enemies.

Ja 1:19-20 NASB But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; ²⁰for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

- B. When we respond with anger, our relationships will be injured, causing us unnecessary pain. How we respond when we are mistreated or when we disagree is foundational to our spiritual life. The yoke of humility includes restraint in one's speech, self-promotion, etc.
Gal 5:15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!
- C. Walking in humility impacts the quality of our marriages and family culture as well as how our children will approach conflict and carry their hearts in their future. As peacemakers, we are to seek to bring peace and not stoke the flames of fiery arguments. We must put biblical conviction above our opinions and arguments.
"Mt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
- D. The measure of our anger in our speech can be the measure of our unperceived ambition.
Pro 15:1-2 A gentle answer turns away wrath [anger], but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable.

IV. EXPRESSING MEEKNESS IN A NIGHT AND DAY PRAYING COMMUNITY

- A. Expressing meekness in our life together: being considerate of others in all things
Expressing meekness in ministry: in our worship teams, section leading, ministry operations
Expressing meekness in leadership : those with more power take less privilege
Expressing meekness when overlooked or mistreated: serving as unto the Lord instead of man
Expressing meekness in valuing other ministries: resisting an elite spirit

Phil 2:3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind...
- B. We desire to cultivate revelation that the Father sees and cares about our efforts to walk godly and serve others even when others do not. He is our audience and we seek His applause.
Mt 6:1-4 4 Your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you.
- C. Paul contrasted two ways of living: to live as unto God or seeking applause of men. Do we serve with more humility, generosity, diligence, and purity when someone is watching. Do we get offended after we serve diligently and are ignored or criticized for our labors?
Eph 6:6-8 Not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers ...but... 7 as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord...

V. EMBRACING MEEKNESS - THE PREMIER NEED FOR THE CHURCH

- A. 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.(***Phil 2:8-10***) Anyone who truly looks at Jesus and His meekness is left staring at a great mystery as He is so strong and is the One who stoops down so low to rescue us.