

Meekness and Gentleness

The Kingdom and the Covenant, Session 3.08

Introduction

- 2 Co 10:1, “By the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I appeal to you.”
- Jesus was meek and gentle, but:
 - Mt 15:7, Jesus called Pharisees “hypocrites” for nullifying God’s word for the sake of their traditions
 - Mt 21:12, Mk 11:15, Jn 2:15, Jesus used a whip to drive money changers and merchants out of the temple, overturned their tables and scattered the money
 - Jn 18:6, when the soldiers and officials arrived to arrest Jesus the night he was betrayed, he identified himself and “they drew back and fell to the ground”; did he knock them down?
 - Lk 19:11-27; 20:9-16, two of his parables refer to him killing those who oppose him
 - Rev 19:11-13 describes Jesus as riding a white horse, judging and making war; his eyes like blazing fire and his robe covered with blood
 - Rev 20:11-15, Jesus will judge the spiritually dead, have them thrown into lake of fire for eternal torment

Key Greek words

- meekness (Gk, n, *prautes*)
 - Sense: acting in a manner that is gentle, mild and even-tempered
 - Translated: gentleness, humility, meekness, mildness
- meek (Gk, adj, *praus*)
 - Sense: a person characterized by being humble, gentle and mild
 - Translated: gentle, humble, meek, mild
 - These words only relate to a person or animal having great power or strength
- gentleness (Gk, n, *epieikeia*)
 - Sense: leniency and compassion shown toward offenders by a person or agency charged with administering justice
 - Translated: indulgence, moderation, tolerance, gentleness, what is right or fitting, reasonableness, fairness
- gentle (Gk, adj, *epieikes*)
 - Sense: mercifulness or tolerance of slight deviations from moral or legal standards
 - Translated: gentle, kind, merciful, tolerant
 - These words describe a moderated, gentle use of overwhelming force to do what is appropriate

Jesus, our example

- His meekness and gentleness on earth were expressions of his true nature
- Mt 11:29, “I am gentle and humble in heart”
 - “gentle” (Gk, adj, *praus*)
 - “humble” (Gk, adj, *tapeinos*): marked by meekness or modesty; not arrogant or prideful
- You and I are to become increasingly like him
 - Mt 3:17, “And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”
 - 1 Jn 3:2, “Dear friends, now we are children of God.”
 - Eph 1:20, God “raised [Jesus] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.”
 - Eph 2:6, “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.”
 - Mt 3:16, “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.”
 - 1 Co 6:19, “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”
 - You and I are children of God like Jesus, seated with him in heaven and empowered by the same Holy Spirit. Isn’t it time we began acting like Jesus?

Our meekness

- Mt 5:5, “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”
 - “meek” (Gk, adj, *praus*) refers to someone with great power acting under control
 - Why do you think someone who can use great power in a controlled and fitting manner is qualified to inherit the earth in God’s kingdom?
- Gal 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”
 - “gentleness” (Gk, n, *prautes*)
 - The fruit of whose spirit?
- Eph 4:1-2, ¹ “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”
 - [more literal translation] “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, ² *with complete humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love.*”
 - “gentleness” (Gk, n, *prautes*)
 - If this verse urges us to do something, then we _____ do it and must _____ to do it

- Col 3:12, “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”
 - “gentleness” (Gk, n, *prautes*)
 - What does it mean to “clothe” yourself with an attribute?
 - Heb 11:1 (Amplified Bible), “Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title-deed) of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality – faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses.”

Our gentleness

- Phil 4:5, “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.”
 - “gentleness” (Gk, adj, *epieikes*)
 - We have great power, but is it ours?
 - Php 4:13, “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
 - According to verse 5, how should we use that power?
- Tit 3:1-2, ¹ “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.
 - “considerate” (Gk, adj, *epieikes*)

Questions

- How do meekness and gentleness apply to our covenant relationship with God?
- How does this apply to our relationship with other people, believers and non-believers?
- How is this relevant to our activity in the kingdom?
- How is this relevant to our life in general?
- How does this apply to our interaction with evil spirits?
- How can we develop biblical meekness and gentleness?

Conclusions

- Becoming like Jesus includes learning to use kingdom authority and power to do kingdom business in a manner that is appropriate and controlled, and honors God.