

The Way We Are To Be - Gentle (Matthew 5)

February 18, 2018

Matthew 5:1-10 ESV

- 1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
- 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
- 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
- 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
- 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."
- 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
- 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."
- 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."
- 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."
- 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:5 ESV

- 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

meek (praÿs) *gentleness of spirit, mildness of disposition, humble*

Outline of Biblical Usage - Larry Pierce

"Gentleness or meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all."

- ***How impossible, according to human wisdom, that someone who is gentle, meek and mild should possess the earth! Isn't that only for the mighty and the aggressive, those who dominate by force?***
- ***The meekness/gentleness Jesus speaks of does not come from natural disposition or personality.***
- ***Meekness/gentleness comes from knowing God is in control of every circumstance and I can rest securely in His sovereign care for my life.***
- ***Meekness/gentleness is best demonstrated and most easily observed under the pressure of adversity either from circumstances or from others.***
- ***When trusting in God's sovereign purposes and care, my response to others and to circumstances is gentle.***
 - ***I don't become insecure or fearful, nor do I panic.***
 - ***I don't strive or manipulate, trying to stay in control.***
 - ***I don't promote myself, compete with others or become jealous.***
 - ***I don't retaliate in anger or revenge, nor do I vent my frustration on others.***
 - ***I don't justify, excuse, vindicate or defend myself.***
 - ***I don't argue, quarrel or debate. I don't have to prove I am right.***
 - ***I don't have to change or coerce others. I give others the space to make their own decisions and choices.***

The Root of Gentleness

"Men sometimes speak as if humility and meekness would rob us of what is noble and bold and manlike. O that all would believe that this is the nobility of the kingdom of heaven, that this is the royal spirit that the King of heaven displayed, that this is Godlike, to humble oneself, to become the servant of all!"

— Andrew Murray, Humility

"The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."

—William Booth, 1829-1912, English Methodist preacher, founded The Salvation Army

Philippians 4:4-7 ESV

4 **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice** (*chairō - joyful, calmly happy, be glad, be well, thrive*).

- *When God is my life, my portion, my peace and my joy, I don't need to fight with, compete with nor take from any man. All I need I find in Him.*

5 **Let your reasonableness** (*epieikēs - equitable, fair, mild, gentle*) **be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;**

- Philippians 4:5 NASB *"Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near."*
- Philippians 4:5 CSB *"Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near."*
- *You can be meek and gentle, yet also be very resolute.*

6 **do not be anxious** (*merimnaō - be anxious, troubled with cares, take thought, to promote one's interests*) **about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

- *Many times anger, strife, aggression and violence are triggered by anxiety and fear of having not. Therefore I must take for myself.*
- *The gentle, not the forceful or aggressive, will inherit and possess all things. It comes to those who do not flex and exert their self-will.*

7 **And the peace** (*eirēnē - peace, rest, quietness*) **of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 2:14 CSB

14 **Do everything without grumbling** (*goggysmos - murmuring, secret debate or displeasure*) **and arguing** (*dialogismos - deliberating, questioning, doubting, disputing*),

15 **so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world,**

- *Responding to difficulty and adversity in meekness, humility and patience, without grumbling, complaining and exerting your self-will, will cause you to stand out and shine like stars in the world!*

- *"The person who bears and suffers evils with meekness and silence, is the sum of a Christian man."*

—John Wesley

Matthew 5:38-45 ESV

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'

39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.

40 And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.

41 And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.

42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

- *Do not allow the injustice, harm or evil done to you to provoke in your heart a response of injustice or evil.*
- *If the injustice, harm or evil done to you provokes a similar response from you, then what they did to you has gone far deeper than a slap on the cheeks or a two mile hike. You have allowed what was done to you to defile and corrupt your heart.*

Luke 22:35-38 ESV

35 And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing."

36 He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.

37 For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."

38 And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

Proverbs 22:3 NASB

3 The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it.

Matthew 10:16 NASB

16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.

Matthew 7:6 ESV

6 Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you.

Romans 12:17-21 ESV

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

2 Timothy 2:23-26 ESV

23 Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome (*machomai* - fight, strive, engage in a war of words, quarrel, wrangle, dispute) but kind (*epios* - mild, kind, gentle) to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil,

25 correcting his opponents with gentleness (*praÿtēs* - gentleness of spirit, mildness of disposition, meekness). God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Examples of Biblical Gentleness

"A visitor at a school for the deaf and dumb was writing questions on the blackboard for the children. By and by he wrote this sentence: 'Why has God made me to hear and speak, and made you deaf and dumb?'

The awful sentence fell upon the little ones like a fierce blow in the face. They sat palsied before that dreadful 'Why?' And then a little girl arose.

Her lip was trembling. Her eyes were swimming with tears. Straight to the board she walked, and, picking up the crayon, wrote with firm hand these precious words: 'Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight!' What a reply! It reaches up and lays hold of an eternal truth upon which the maturest believer as well as the youngest child of God may alike securely rest -- the truth that God is your Father."

--Arthur Christopher Bacon, Streams in the Desert, February 12

Genesis 45:4-8 ESV

4 So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.