

## **Dying Ambitions**

### **Mt 5:5 Blessed are The Meek**

There is an old hymn found in a Assembly of God Hymnal, “The Vision.” It was originally in a hymnal in the early 50's and then thoughtfully reprinted the chorus in 1978. The author, H. C. McKinney, we were told, died very young but we were grateful to our Lord for this inspired and inspiring hymn. Nothing defines “meekness” as this prayer does:

I have seen the heathen in their darkness  
I have heard their cry of grim despair  
All my heart is burning with the passion  
To bring to them the light of Jesus there

Take me, Master break me, use me  
I am leaning on Thy breast  
All ambitions fast are dying, from their pain  
Now give me rest

On the altar I have lain them  
Now to Thee I give my Heart  
Fill me with the fire of vision  
Let my passion ne'er depart

Knowingly or not, a believer’s desire through prayer to empathize with God—impassioned about the very things that are on His great heart—is the first sign of meekness.

Meekness in scripture presumes a humility that Richard Trench says “is an acknowledgment not merely of sinfulness but of creatureliness, of absolute dependence, of having nothing, but receiving all things of God. [Poor in Spirit] And adds, “it is only the humble heart which is also the meek”

These 2 terms, humility [poverty of Spirit] and meekness, are not just words and I might venture to say, they are not words whose meanings come easy to us. They join a treasury of Bible terms that, as we learn from Richard Trench, “revelation has given ... a depth, a richness, a fulness of significance which they were very far from possessing before.”

Meekness is a gentle spirit, to be sure, but more. Wives are enjoined to converse with their non-believing husbands in a **gentler** tone as the expression of a **quiet** spirit, an inner calmness, a heart at rest, in the knowledge that God alone can draw them to Himself. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

I Peter 3:4 [NLT] "...the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God."

### **The Context**

But we must dig deeper: Not just gentle, not just exemplifying an inner quietness, a heart at rest and not just humility, a total dependence on God, **meekness** includes the passion, a disposition, to let the will of God direct.

Brother Charles Hahn, a colleague in ministry, now we Jesus, a former missionary to Peru, in prayer learned of God's interest in breaking him—breaking his will. He thought this meant "his spirit was to be broken and he would be left in total despondency, but the Lord, clarified that He wanted to break him like a cowboy breaks a horse.

Look who our word keeps company with

**Ephesians. 4:2** "Be completely humble and **gentle [meekness]**; be patient [longsuffering], bearing with one another in love."

**Colossians 3:12** "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion [a divine quality: tender mercy], kindness [a compassionate heart, "pity"], humility [poverty of spirit], **gentleness [meekness]** and patience [longsuffering]."

God does "break" us ..and thank Him that He does!

**Zephaniah. 3:12** "But I will leave within you the meek Hebrew: [humbles] and humble [Hebrew: poor, languished, weak. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. "

The meek are resigned to follow Christ. It is in their spiritual DNA to submit to His voice and leading. We are, after all, the sheep of His pasture.

**John 10:27** "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, *and they follow* me:"

Trench tells us, “[meekness]... is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept his dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting;”

**Matthew 11:29** “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

**James 1:21** ' receive with meekness the engrafted [written on the heart] word’

There is in meekness an intentional desire to follow Christ. The one possessing it proceeds with spontaneous abandonment to His will. It becomes a natural interest of the meek to serve the higher cause of God, either through insight into His Word, or simply by the peaceful acceptance of who they are becoming in Christ. They are in love with Him and want to follow.

### **The Wild Side**

Sadly, many christians show a wild side to their nature, a militancy which they justify as an apologetic defense of the gospel. The Gospel is empowered to represent itself, simply in the sharing of it. One thing is sure: *wild is not meek*.

### **A Summary Prayer**

May we be among those whose poverty of spirit and mourning for the lost reflect a gentler conviction that does not feel the work of God needs swords and battle cries.

Believers who do not boast of victories against other believers, who do not think that love must be hard. May we be people of God that can forgive offense with such spontaneity and immediacy that our acceptance of one another is unassailable and our unity indisputable.

May we cherish peace over all other virtues. May we practice “a soft answer turns away wrath” (Proverbs 15:1) especially among fellow believers. ...foremost realizing that in prayer victory is achieved. May we with focused and unreserved intent follow our Savior even in the hard decisions: to carry a cross or turn the other cheek or go the extra mile or sell all first, because it is the natural thing to do, because it is the christian thing to do, because it is the only thing to do.

Amen!