

## Sermon on the Mount (Blessed are the gentle/meek)

### Matthew 5:5b

Greek word for used is *praus*, meaning gentleness, meekness, humility.

This word also has meaning in antiquity as used to describe the process of taming, breaking, and bringing a wild horse to submission. If a wild horse was trained and broken to obey its owner, the horse would have been said to have been meeked. The horse would maintain its strength, but it would be the under control and command of its owner and its only focus now was to please him.

Being meek/gentle is best broken into two categories: 1.) submission to God. 2.) gentleness/meekness toward others.

Meekness is twofold: vertical (God) and horizontal (people). One can't be meek toward others unless they are meek toward God.

Meekness is not an optional characteristic, but rather a characteristic of every believer. Meekness is not to be confused with quietness or shyness as these are physical and nature characteristics. Being meek is not in our fallen nature, but only brought about by regeneration. Meekness belongs only to the blessed one (Christian) as it is brought about by exclusively by the Holy Spirit.

- **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

### Horizontal aspect (Meekness toward others)

- **Ephesians 4:1-3** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, <sup>3</sup>being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- **Galatians 6:1-3** Brethren, even if <sup>[a]</sup>anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- **Philippians 4:5** Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is <sup>[a]</sup>near.
- **Colossians 3:12-13** So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and <sup>[b]</sup>patience; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
- **1 Timothy 6:11** But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, <sup>[b]</sup>perseverance *and* gentleness.
- **2 Timothy 2:24-25** The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup>with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth,
- **Titus 3:1-3** Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, <sup>2</sup>to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. <sup>3</sup>For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.
- **James 3: 16-18** For where jealousy and <sup>[a]</sup>selfish ambition exist, <sup>[b]</sup>there is disorder and every evil thing. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, <sup>[c]</sup>reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And the <sup>[d]</sup>seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace <sup>[e]</sup>by those who make peace.

- **1 Peter 3:3-5** Your adornment must not be *merely* external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; <sup>4</sup> but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God. <sup>5</sup> For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands;
- **1 Peter 3:14-16** But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you <sup>[a]</sup>are blessed. And do not fear their <sup>[b]</sup>intimidation, and do not be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but <sup>[c]</sup>sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a <sup>[d]</sup>defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and <sup>[e]</sup>reverence; <sup>16</sup> <sup>[f]</sup>and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.
- **Luke 14:7-11** And He *began* speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor *at the table*, saying to them, <sup>8</sup> “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not <sup>[e]</sup>take the place of honor, for someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, <sup>9</sup> and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give *your* place to this man,’ and then in disgrace you <sup>[f]</sup>proceed to occupy the last place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will have honor in the sight of all who <sup>[g]</sup>are at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Not meek: harsh, proud, angry, revengeful, ambitious

Meek: humble, patient, forgiving, gentle, and content

- **Proverbs 16:32** He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.
- **Proverbs 25:28** Like a city that is broken into *and* without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.

Meekness is not weakness, but strength under control. It takes strength to be gentle toward others.

### The meek person in relation to others

- Does not think everyone owes them everything or that the whole world revolves around them
- Does not walk around with a chip on their shoulder daring someone to knock it off
- Does not seek revenge (**Romans 14:12-21**)
- Is not easily offended
- Gives the judgment of charity
- Is happy for others in their success and gain
- Is not argumentative just to be argumentative
- Doesn't defend themselves because they know they don't deserve anything in and of themselves, but defends God at all costs in kindness
- Seeks the concerns and needs of others
- Treats others as the Bible commands as they are meek to God's word even above feelings

\*True meekness is shown in testing.

\*“an anvil wears out many hammers.” - Spurgeon

## Jesus our example

- **Phil 2: 1-11** Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any [a]affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup> make my joy complete [b]by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing [c]from [d]selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; <sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this attitude [e]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be [f]grasped, <sup>7</sup> but [g]emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death [h]on a cross. <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- **1 Peter 21-25** For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, <sup>22</sup> who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth; <sup>23</sup> [w]and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; <sup>24</sup> and He Himself [x]bore our sins in His body on the [y]cross, so that we might die to [z]sin and live to righteousness; for by His [aa]wounds you were healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and [ab]Guardian of your souls.
- **Isaiah 53:7** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.
- **Isaiah 42:3**(see also Matthew 12:18-21) A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.

True meekness is found in testing. This is where meekness or submission to God is the most sincere. The meek person is humble, gentle, and in submission to God and that results in the meek person saying, "not my will, but yours be done."

## Inherit the earth

When someone receives an inheritance, they did not work for it, but rather receive the inheritance as a gift. The blessed ones are the children of God, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. The meek will inherit the new Heaven and new earth with God by our adoptions as sons of God.

- **Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*
- **Rev 22:3-5** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; <sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> And there will no longer be *any* night; and they [d]will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- **2 Peter 3:13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.\*

Being meek and gentle is not an optional characteristic or attribute of a Christian, but rather a characteristic of everyone who will be in Heaven. To be meek one must be born again as they by the Holy Spirit are poor in spirit and mourn over their sin. Meekness begins with the vertical aspect in regards to our meekness to God. We are to be meek to God and in total submission and obedience to His Sovereign authority. To be meek is to be humbled before God knowing that we deserve absolutely nothing and all that we have is from God to whom we are in total submission. This vertical meekness is the only thing that allows us to be meek toward others which is the horizontal aspect of meekness. The same humility that the blessed one has toward God, is to be shown toward other people as we live in humility with Christ being our example. One can't be meek toward others if they are not meek before God as the horizontal can't be present without the vertical. The attitude and love one has toward others is an indication of the attitude and the love they have toward God.

Blessed are the gentle and the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. That is blessed!