Blessed Are The Meek

By

Calvin Warpula

Spiritual Sword April 1973

This beatitude may very well be one of the most difficult to understand.

Modern day theories of the word meek include weakness, indolence, spineless, gentleness, passive, run-overness,

The Biblical meaning is far removed from these types of definitions. Meekness is one of the greatest Christian virtues and has been possessed by great men of God in all periods of Biblical history.

In the Old Testament meekness is the opposite of pride and arrogance. Isaiah 26.6.

Various versions use different words for meek.

The meek man has special favors with the Lord. Psalms 25:9

The Lord will judge and give the victory and the land to the meek. Psalms 147:6; 149:4

The Abrahamic promise of land will be given to the meek Psalms 37:9-11

In the New Testament the adjective meekness is used four times:

1. Blessed are the meek; Matthew 5:5
2. I am meek and lowly in heart. Matthew 11: 29
3. Behold your king is coming to you humble (meek) and mounted on an ass. Matthew 21:5
4. The imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit. I Peter 3:4

The noun form of meekness occurs eleven times in the New Testament.

1. It is one of the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:23
2. Paul speaks of mercy love and meekness. I Corinthians 4:21; II Corinthians 10:1;
3. Meekness in the spirit in which discipline is to be administered without arrogance, impatience or anger. Galatians 6:1
4. It is classed with love and humility and is a part of the Christian’s calling. Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:12;
5. It is the spirit of the Christian teacher as he gently corrects opposition. II Timothy 2:25
6. It is opposite a fighting, belligerent, pugnacious, spirit; Titus 3:2
7. Meekness is the spirit of learning and discipline; James 1:21 as versus the wrath of man; (vs 20)
8. Meekness, instead of bitter zeal and disputatiousness, must pervade the whole Christian life; James 3:13
9. Under the indignation of suffering and when called before civil authorities to give a defense of one’s faith as a Christian. I Peter 3:15

Three times meekness is said to be a character of Jesus. Matthew 11: 29; 21:5; and II Corinthians 10:1

Jesus could be the king of peace and salvation Matthew 21:5, the tender forgiver and comforter of the adulterous woman. John 8:1-12; and radically cleanse the temple without changing his nature and personality. John 2: 13-17;

Jesus also exhibited extraordinary patience toward his captors and Judas; Matthew 26: 47-56, and toward them that crucified him (27:11-14; 27-44) and perhaps his greatest show of meekness was toward his Father’s will even until death. John 8:29; Matthew 26:39; and Philippians 2:8.

Meekness is no show of weakness.

It refers to the person who is under the control and restraint of God.

Meekness is a persistent patience and longsuffering in the face of opposition from men and events.

Notes concerning the meaning of the Beatitude:

1. No man can lead until he has mastered himself.
2. No man can serve others until he has subjected himself.
3. No man can be in control of others until he has learned to control himself.
4. It is when we have meekness that we can treat all men with perfect courtesy.
5. We can rebuke without rancor.
6. We can argue without intolerance.
7. We can face the truth without resentment.
8. We can be angry and sin not.
9. We can be gentle and yet not weak.

Meekness is when man can have control over his instincts, impulses, and passion because he himself is God controlled, who has the humility to realize his own ignorance and his own weakness, for such a man is a king among men.