

Day 13 The Greatest Example of Meekness

Matthew 5:5 (TLB) The meek and lowly are fortunate! For the whole wide world belongs to them.

The power of a life lived in complete obedience to the will of God is seen in Jesus our Lord. If you call Jesus Christ your Lord, then there is a natural assumption that you would do the things He told you to do. The very essence of being a Christ follower is that we follow Christ. Unlike the first disciples, we cannot physically follow Jesus, but we must follow and emulate His example. That implies that we are not just simply willing to do what He has done, but that we actually do what we know He has done. Peter writes and says: *"For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps."* (1 Peter 2:21 NLT)

There are many noble people that have done wonderful things, and we can learn from them and even do what they have done. But we only follow Man's example to the extent that they have followed Christ's example. Not all good deeds are motivated by love. There is only one Lord that has done everything in love, and we must follow in His footsteps. We can do what others have done, but, as Christ followers, we must do what Jesus did. Meekness and humility are not just qualities that Jesus possessed; it is Who He is! Being meek like Jesus is not part of an optional Christian menu whereby we choose some and neglect the others. Humility is not optional; it is mandatory. Yet humility in God's Kingdom is not forced upon us; it is modeled for us so that we can see it, embrace it and walk in it.

Here is the Jesus model: *"After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, 'Do you understand what I was doing?' 13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. 16 I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. 17 Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them."* (John 13:12-17 NLT) True followers of Christ not only embrace a lifestyle of meekness, but diligently seek after it. Humility is not deferred on us, it is clearly demonstrated for us. Then Jesus makes it clear: You cannot profess His Lordship if you do not imitate His example. Humility is an act, not a feeling. Anybody can profess humility, but meek people demonstrate humility. Humility is a choice. We either choose to be humble or we choose pride. There is a caveat. Some people will do acts of service from a prideful attitude because they want others to see how humble they are. How do we know the difference? One word: Perseverance. You see, when we serve from a prideful motivation, sooner or later we are going to complain and eventually quit. We are going to compare ourselves with others, and develop a false sense of superiority. But when we serve with a heart of humility, we do not need validation or praise. We also refuse to compare. The only One we look to is Jesus.

Please hear this: True meekness is to die to self and to live for Him! Meekness might require you to walk a path few others are willing to walk, but Christ's meekness will enable you to see it through to the end. Jesus' act of service was to teach us how to be meek even in the most trying of circumstances. The problem with our world is that human beings are intoxicated with power. Power is alluring and enticing. Drink long enough from the fountain of power, and you become drunk with self-grandiosity. You lose perspective and you lose touch with reality. If you don't believe me, you have probably never read history. History is littered with men and women who got drunk on power, and then puffed up with

self-importance at the expense of others. They all tried to inherit or gain the world, but in the end they have become nothing but a lesson in futility.

Jesus demonstrated the complete opposite. From His birth to His death, He shows what true meekness is. God's Kingdom works through meekness. Humility is our banner, our flag and our weapon. Jesus came to this earth with no fanfare or grandiose entrance. He was born in humility, grew in obscurity and died a criminal's death. Who would've thought that at the height of the greatest Empire, a humble Rabbi's life and death would have greater impact to change the world than anything the Roman powers could accomplish. Who would've thought that the Lamb would defeat the she-wolf (an emblem for the power of Rome)? Jesus, the Son of God, the Son of man, comes in complete humility. He strips Himself of all divine privilege and humbles Himself to the point of death on a cross.

Jesus demonstrates meekness in the most difficult of circumstances. When betrayed by a friend, He willingly surrenders. When His disciples want to fight, He says this: ***"But Jesus said, 'No more of this.' And he touched the man's ear and healed him."* (Luke 22:51 NLT)** Who heals his enemy? We struggle to love our own, but the Lamb heals His enemy. Absolute power under perfect control, because it is found in the perfect humble sacrifice. Jesus has all authority, yet He chooses meekness over power even at the cost of His own life! ***"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword."* (Luke 22:52 NLT)**

The blessed statement that Jesus made in His Sermon on the Mount when He refers to meekness is not a nice idea. It is the lifestyle of the Kingdom. It is the language of the Way of the cross. We have a choice: Do we want to fight with swords, or do we want to fight like our Lord? **As a Christ follower, in facing your battles, you will either choose a sword or the Lord; the choice is yours. But don't forget this: If you use the sword, the sword is your future. If you choose the Lord, He is your future!**

True humility is having the self-control not to use power or force, even if you can. ***"Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?"* (Luke 22:53 NLT)** The meek are motivated by love, and according to Jesus, that is the greatest force for good in the universe. Power that is motivated by fear breeds destruction. The God of the universe comes as a Lamb in order to rescue us from the tyranny of power that is rooted in fear. True power does not need to be defended by human effort or by human ingenuity. There is no need to swing swords when we should be laying down our lives.

We must decide if we are seeking after power or seeking after His Kingdom. This is an upside-down Kingdom, where we are led by the Lamb slain before the foundations of the world. We can try to hold onto the assumed power we have, or we can trust that in laying down our lives we will find His power freely available to us.

Jesus is calling you to meekness. It is the call to lay down your life, so that you, in turn, can receive your inheritance. Remember, it is only through death that you can receive an inheritance...

Reflection and Prayer:

- **Ask the Lord to help you in your battles, to drop the sword and follow your Lord.**
- **Pray for God's grace, so that you may walk the difficult path that meekness requires.**
- **Where and to whom can you pick up a towel and a basin instead of a sword?**
- **Jesus is our model for meekness and service: Prayerfully Read: *John 13:12-17 (NLT)* After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing?"**

13 You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. **14** And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. **15** I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. **16** I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. **17** Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.'

- Write down practical ways that you can live out this passage. Start with the people closest to you. Meekness is greatness, so dare to be great...