

Day 9 Opposites Attack! - Part 1

Matthew 5:5(TPT) *“What blessing comes to you when gentleness lives in you! For you will inherit the earth.*

Meekness, gentleness, kindness and humility...when you read these words, what does it evoke in you? If you were to ask the people in your world if you reflect and display these kinds of qualities, what would they say? Especially ask the ones who are not impressed, intimidated or in any way dependent on you. Would they answer; sometimes, most of the time or all of the time?

What makes Jesus' blessed statements so profound, is the fact that these statements are in direct opposition to what we see and are taught in our cultures and world. Let's be brutally honest! We admire these qualities, we would even like to see them more operational in our world, but we truly think that they are not realistic for getting things done. If I were to tell you I hired a very kind Lawyer, you would probably snicker under your breath. Why? Because no one wants a kind lawyer! We want a bulldog, nasty as an angry rattlesnake that was stepped on. If you step on me, you will get bit. Don't mess with me or you will end in a mess.

Jesus' audience understood that. They knew that they were living in a very cruel world. An eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth kind of world. A world where the few dominated the masses through brutal force and violence. A world where the weak became weaker and the strong become stronger. They knew from their own personal history that they had to fight to survive, as people and as a nation. The History of Israel is littered with continued wars and fighting. Just as the history of mankind bares out. All you have to do is read Genesis and within a few chapters, Cain kills Abel, and that vengeful, envious spirit has not stopped. We want what someone else has, and we will take it by force if necessary.

So, God in His wisdom creates laws so that man does not completely destroy themselves. So that laws can form a barrier of protection, to protect the innocent or the vulnerable. So man's remedy for force is to subdue it with greater force. In our modern vernacular; "You do the crime, you do the time." We all get that, we understand that, Jesus' listeners understood that, but then Jesus says this crazy thing: "The meek get the prize." Jesus introduces something completely contrary to thousands of years of human history. Jesus says, it is the humble, not the forceful that will win in the end. Jesus introduces the primary principle by which His Kingdom operates, meaning how it works. The foundation of God's Kingdom is love. We receive that love by faith, through the vehicle of grace. Relationships and government in God's kingdom work through, humility and meekness. **The Kingdom of God functions not by power, force or coercion, but through meekness, humility and service!**

Power to operate in the Kingdom of God can only come through humility. If you are not meek, according to Jesus, you do not have Kingdom power or authority. That humility is demonstrated by our willingness to embrace the lowest positions, such as a servant, or even in stronger terms, 'a slave.' This is what Jesus said to the disciples after James and John's mother came asking for her sons to be sitting next to Jesus on either side of Him, in His Kingdom. When the other disciples heard it, they were mad that James and John got there first. How come they got to call shotgun next to Jesus, we should've done it! Now read Jesus' response: **25** "Jesus, knowing their thoughts, called them to his side and said, "Kings and those with great authority in this world rule oppressively over their subjects, like tyrants. **26 But this is not your calling. You will lead by a completely different model. The greatest one among you will live**

as the one who is called to serve others, 27 because the greatest honor and authority is reserved for the one with the heart of a servant.” Matthew 20:25-27(TPT)

How things get done in God’s kingdom is not how things get done in the kingdoms of this world! Jesus came to introduce to the world a new way of leading. A new way of being great. When Jesus looks for greatness; power, authority and influence over others, does not impress Him at all. What impresses Jesus, is an attitude of meekness, humility and gentleness, demonstrated through acts of service. Acts of service are not to benefit those who serve, but those who are being served, even to the point of laying down one’s life. ***“For even the Son of Man did not come expecting to be served by everyone, but to serve everyone, and to give his life in exchange for the salvation of many.” Matthew 20:28(TPT)***

According to Jesus, meekness is power under control that enables us to lay down our lives for others. Jesus says; those who will inherit the earth are those who are meek enough to lay down their lives for others. Therefore, true power is not insisting on having things my way, but trusting in the ultimate Just God, to the point of being willing to be the least. In the world’s system, there are winners and there are losers. The world says; “Winners get what they want, take what they want and do what they want.” Their motto is: “I win.” Jesus says: “True winners give what is needed, give up more than is required and trust God for the outcome.” Their motto is: “I die.”

So, here’s the billion-dollar question: “Are you winning or are you dying?” “Are you operating in the Spirit of meekness, or do you see that as weakness?” “Do you have to have it your way, or are you willing to prefer others?” “Do you want your inheritance now, or do you want to inherit the earth with those who are meek?”

The Kingdom of God is in direct conflict with the kingdom of this age, which kingdom have given your allegiance to?

Reflection and Prayer:

- **Pray this Prayer: Father, thank you for giving us a different model to follow. Jesus, thank you, that You did not just tell us to serve, but showed us how to serve. Thank you for serving throughout Your Life on this earth, and even serving now as You intercede for us before the Father. Help me to daily follow your example of meekness and humility. When I am tempted to do things according to the pattern of this world, gently remind me that my allegiance is to You and Your Kingdom. Show me how to live a life of complete humility, gentleness and meekness. Even when I am being mistreated, misrepresented and misunderstood, let me serve with meekness. Father help me trust in Your ultimate wisdom, that even though it seems that I am not winning, according to what the world says, that I will be part of receiving my inheritance from you! Give me the meekness to have strength under control and to believe that my life is completely in Your just, righteous and merciful Hands. Forgive me for trying to control instead of letting go and letting You lead me. I love You Lord! I commit to follow my King’s example. I belong to the Kingdom of righteousness and humility and with meekness I will receive what You have promised. Lead me Lord and I will follow. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.**
- **Look for opportunities in your daily routine to serve others.**
- **Serve and do not wait for a “Thank You or Acknowledgement”**