

I am aware that when I am honest with myself, how much more difficult it is to allow other people to look at my life and I instinctively resent it and refuse to allow anyone to condemn it and I say to myself, I am a sinner but I don't like for anyone else to say I am sinner.

I. Meekness is a yardstick of Character.

Ordinarily the use of this word is to describe to describe an attitude or properly as disposition in regard to men. Especially in regard to those who appreciate, or wrong or hurt us. We know that this includes that but it goes deeper than our attitude. I think it goes to our disposition towards God. Meekness is endurance and obedience and it is accepting His dealings with us. A missionary in Jamaica was once questioning the little black boys on the meaning of this text He asked, Who are the meek? A boy answered, Those who give soft answers to rough questions. This is a direct quotation from psalms 37:11. And we link the words meek and little of a meek little man is a little which rightly no covets but true meekness is not little. The french word translated in the for meek hints that a man who is go gladdened and overcome by God's greatness that he counts his own life as nothing. But gaily gives it for love's sake. The Greek word means good will toward man and reverent obedience toward God. Therefore it is an attitude toward God which accepts His dealings with

noesser dshd tol lqeqog ent to dnortierol ent. nt rebut ltuused ent  
Matt. 5:5

INTRODUCTION: As we pick the yardstick here we are first confronted with the world's idea on the whole is very different from our Lord's. We know that the world is inclined to be suspicious conspicuous with heroic merches. It confers a great flaring yellow sunflower to a violet hidden among the grass. The world says, blessed are the strong who can hold their own. He goes a little further in searching for gold as I watch the gold mine dredge work go down 30 some feet down below the surface digging up the little flakes of gold. So it seems to me here that we have a great mine of spiritual gold if we will just get down deep enough to discover it. And I do not believe that Jesus would have come into the world if God had not had a plan for Him that we might live more abundantly, that our life might be lived with a capital I. The world thinks in terms of power and strength and ability self-assurance and aggressiveness, that is the world's idea of conquest and possession. But once again we must begin at the very beginning where the Christian is all together different from the world. He is different in quality, he is essentially a new man, a new creature. And so this statement must have shocked the Jews in the days of our Lord. We know that Matthew was writing primarily to the Jews. He places

the beautitudes in the forefront of the gospel for that reason. They had ideas that the kingdom which you remember was not only materialistic but military also. To them the Messiah was one whose coming to lead them to victory. So they were thinking in terms of conquest and fighting in a material sense and immediately Jesus dismisses all of that and he is saying "No, no" that is not the way I am, I'm not like that. And my kingdom is not like that. This is a very striking contrast even in the Christian church in the present time. The controlling prevailing thought of a Christian church that the world seems to be the very opposite of what he has indicated in His text. There they say is the powerful enemy set against us. And here the Christian church is divided. We must all get together, we must have one huge organization to face that organized enemy, then we shall make an impact and then we shall conquer but Jesus says, Blessed are the meek; not those that trust in their own organizations, not those that trust in their own powers and abilities, not those that trust in their own institutions, but He says the very reverse and this is the whole message of the Bible for you remember the story of Gideon, how instead of God telling him to add to his numbers, God told him to reduce his numbers and that he didn't need to add anymore but that the spiritual methods were to be victorious

by cutting down and that was an amazing statement and the sermon on the mount and this message here is an amazing statement form God. And another thing that I would like for you to see is the very outset of this is that one relationship on one beauty to the other. What has gone before and what follows. You will notice the poor in spirit and those that mourn who are aware of their sins and then he continues his next step to meekness and as he proceeds they become increasingly difficult. In other words, what we are now considering is more searching, more difficult, more humbling, and more humiliating than anything that He has said thus far in this message. You see He is calling upon us to realize our own weakness and our own inability. It causes us to feel that we have nothing, we become poor in spirit. We are truly helpless. Anyone who thinks that he can live the Christian life in himself is proclaiming that he is not a Christian and you see the second state in which you realize your own sinfulness and your own true nature. You are so helpless because of the indwelling of sin that you mourn and you cry, O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death. And then we come and reach a point where we begin to be concerned about other people. And I can see my own nothingness and helplessness face to face with the demands of the gospel

Jeremiah, unpopular with his message, he ~~was~~ was called upon to speak the truth to the people. Now this was not the thing that he wanted to do. This was not the easiest thing nor was it a smother thing. He did not say what everybody else was saying during his day. And yet we see how he suffered all kinds of unkind things and that was meekness. Stephen also was an illustration of it. Paul which is considered what he suffered at the hands of different churches and different people and how he wrote to these members who had said unkind, disparaging things about him.

Our Lord who said "Come unto me all ye who are heavy laden and I will give you rest." See how He reacted to the people and especially to the sufferings and to the scorn and the sarcasm. A bruised reed will not break and smoking flax shall he not quench. Look at Him in the garden of Gethsemane, he humbled himself. He became a servant unto death.

In all of these men's lives you see 2 or 3 things. First, you see that this meekness was not a natural quality. It is not a matter of lesser disposition. All Christians are meant to be like this. You take these various character whom we have mentioned apart from our Lord Himself, I think that you could find that in every case we have a man who was not

us. You know the ex that kicks against the goads only does 2 things. He does not get away from them and it wounds him and drives the sharp points deeper into the ragged wounds. So meekness toward God is patience and endurance to do His will. This meekness does not mean weakness. It does not mean a special blessing comes to one because he is feeble or frail or he is fragile. But there is evidently a distinction because the Lord said He was meek and lowly in heart, Matt. 11. The apostle submitted this to his converts when he said in Ephesians 4:2 that they must be lowly and meek in reference to Christ. Paul gave this final instruction to Timothy the servant of the Lord he says, must not strive but be gentle to all men apt to teach, patience in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves. II Tim. 2:24-25. Here meekness seems especially demanding that we are summoned to have this attitude and this spirit toward men. Now those who have especially wronged us this lowliness will always be characteristic of attribute of true saintliness. The elders fall down before the throne, the cast their crowns at the feet of God in utter abasement but in heaven though meekness will always shine, we know. Meekness is consistent with strength of character. Now as I have already mentioned, many use this in contrast with meekness but meek people may be held in some degree in contempt and this is not to mean that there is

flabbiness or absence of backbone. We know that with our acquaintance with other men such as Moses there was meekness and yet there was strength. Though a man be meekness, he must have strength to resist the soft tempting voices of evil that would lure him. He must not be carried out of his purposes of redemption and he realizes that there is even a greater power because of this restraining effort on his part.

II. Some examples of meekness to measure by.

I think it would do good for us to go some examples for we know most men are like dogs. They answer bark for bark, that they might themselves become hoarse thereby but it is our business to meet evil with good and the more we are depreciated the more we are harmed and the more we are circled about by malice or scorn the more we must patiently and persistently love on. It is easy for us to say and it is hard for us to do. But it is the plain Christian duty, old fashion people believed in this. Meekness makes no claim upon others. Plenty of people are sore all over with type irritation caused by not getting what they consider due respect. They howl and whine because they are not appreciated. Well, we don't expect much of men and we need to make no demand if for no better reason because the more you demand, the less you will get. And the less you seem to think to be your due. So I am willing to keep this in mind as we come to these

examples that the wrath of men worketh not the righteousness of God. We know that even theologians are ready to fly at each other's throats for the sacred cause of humanity. We know that there is a greater force at work in the world and that soldiers of Christ are fighting the battles of the kingdom not with a sword. You may take all the steamhammers that ever were forged in batter on an iceberg and except the comparative little heat that is developed by the blows and melts some small portion of it it will be ice still, though pulverized instead of the large iceberg. But you let that iceberg silently drift into the arctic current and move down southward when the sun beams smite its coldness to death it disappears in the warm ocean. Meekness is conquer. Abraham. A wonderful picture of meekness. It is the greatest characteristic of his life. You remember his behaviour in respect to Lot and how he the older man, allowed the younger to assert himself and take the choice without even murmuring or complaining, that was meekness. Moses who is actually described as the meekest man on the face of the earth examined his character and he discovered that he was rather abased when he could have been a great power in the courts of Pharaoh's and yet he denied it all and served God. David, ~~he~~ knew he was to be king and yet he suffered untold humiliation by Saul. Saul was unjust, he was unkind, in his treatment of him but you read the story.

and corruption and Godless traffic then it is channeled in the proper way. You may have ego. You may be conscious of being an individual. It doesn't mean that you worship yourself, to think constantly of yourself but Jesus said that you are to deny yourself and follow me. There is many a person today who has gone on the rocks, lost their mental bearings and even jeopardized their health, their physical condition because they have thought exclusively of themselves. You have a tongue and a voice. You can use that tongue to slander to gripe to scold, to nag, to quarrel, or you can bring in under control of God's spirit and it will be a great instrument for blessings and for praise. As James 3:3 says when you put bits in horse's mouth then you can control and get them to move in the direction that you want them to move.

Third, a true view of self. We get an understanding here that He wants us to be yielded unto Him. He that looseth or abandoneth his life, shall find it. Those that are meek do not fight back at life. They learn the secret of yielding to God and knowing that He fights for us. So instead of filling the mind with resentments and abusing your body by sinful diversions your life will begin to count for something. To

meek by nature. We see that these men were not all easy going men before they met God. We see also that it was not naturally their nature to be nice and to be good.

III. What do we find as these meek men are measured.

Now I should like for us to look at a few of the detailed things that are revealed in this list of men that we have used for an example.

First, they were not sensitive. We know that when wrong approaches a man that 2 or 3 things happen to him. First, he is quick and keen and when he is stung, he is quick to feel resentment and under rebuff or a slight wrong to resist it with all of his force. But when we look at these meek men they are not even sensitive about themselves. They are not

always watching themselves as their own interest. He is not always on the defensive. We all know about this, do we not?

Is it not one of the greatest curses in life as a result of the fall that we are so sensitive about ourselves we spend our whole lifetime watching ourselves but the meek man no longer worries about himself and what other people say. He no longer seeks to protect himself because we see there is nothing worth defending. So we are not on the defensive all that is gone. Truly the meek man never pities, he never feels sorry for himself. If you are having a hard time, how unkind these

really am if only other people gave me a chance for self-pity what hours and years we ~~wasted~~ waste in this. You see there is meekness we are finished with self, altogether. And we will come to see that we have no rights or desserts at all. He that is down need fear no fall. When a man truly see himself he knows nobody can say anything about him that is too bad. You need not worry about that. The truly meek man is the one who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do. And treat him as well as they do. When wrong is done to him he is lead by the grace of God to mourn over it. It is an indication of the misery of the soul. He suffers like a child of the Great Father understand in something of the anguish of God's heart. And he leaves God to avenge and prairie for the speedy coming of the day when the wrong shall be righted, and tears wiped away. Second, gentleness. The word gentle was rarely heard before the Christian era and the word gentleness was not known at all. This high quality of character is a direct quality of Christianity. We know that our children today are given toys representing violence, guns, tanks, fighting planes, soldiers, war, all of this for entertainment. Our magazines add to the fuel when they dramatize the hatred, he lusts, the passions, of human nature. Neighbors quarrell with their neighbors fighting is a major problem in schools and gang wars of the teenagers

have come to present a serious menace in our cities. Fathers and mothers wrangle and bicker, home are dissentergrated. Public officials in Washington and other places engage in name calling and heated disputes. None of this is in keeping with the dignity of their office. How is all of this krept into our lives and into our social life? We have forgotten the words of Jesus. We have said that might is right. We say that we are rich in knowledge but we are poor in wisdom. The Bible says that wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated and full of mercy and good fruits without partiality and without hypocrisy. James 3:17. This gentleness moves on into quietness or tamedness. It is like breaking a wild horse. Now energy out of control is dangerous but energy under control is powerful so God does not discipline to subdue us, but the uncontrolled life is an unhappy life and attaining is a matter of not doing away with powers but redirecting them. For example you have a bad temper. There is nothing unique about that. A lot of people use their tempers to varying degrees of course and I don't suppose that you could get rid of all of it but it must be brought under control and rechannelled in the proper uses. God cannot use a man without a temper as well as He cannot use one with an uncontrolled temper. I think when temper is directed on becoming worked up about injustices

passionate soul is unable to detect the movements of God's  
 guiding pillar. Passion raises a storm, blurs the heavens,  
 ruffles the calm waters, but the still, small voice, when there-  
 fore you have been wronged be calm and still. Wait for God,  
 He will indicate the way, He will have you take the answer.  
 This age is highstrung, neurotic, impatient, We hurry when there  
 is no reason for hurrying. We take a fast pace. We know that  
 many homes are like that bit of poetry, Their's was a beef-  
 stew marriage and their case was somewhat crude. The wife  
 was always beefing and the husband always stewed. I read of  
 a woman who professed to be a Christian in many respects but  
 she was very impatient. One day the preacher talked to her  
 husband and he said, my wife is a good homemaker, but if res-  
 ligation will make me as impatient as she is, I don't want any  
 part of it. Well, the preacher had a talk with the wife. In  
 tears she confessed her sin, the sin of impatience. And so  
 a few days later the husband came in from fishing, he walked  
 through the front room, his rod accidentally knocked a precious  
 vase and shattered it into the floor. Well he braced himself  
 for he knew there would be a second crash from his nervous  
 wife but instead, she said, Think nothing of it dear, accidents  
 happen in the best of families. Well, we will not go on with  
 that story any further but you get the idea. The world believe  
 that Christianity is a good thing and we believe that it will

we express this in our attitude, in our conduct, and respect  
 to others and our relationship to God. The meek man is not  
 proud of himself, he does not in any way seek to glorify  
 himself. He feels that there is nothing in himself of which  
 he can boast and I am always sceptacle of religious workers  
 and so on who always brag about what they have done for this  
 and that and the other. The meek man does not demand anything  
 for himself. He does not take all of his rights as claimed.  
 He does not make a demand for his position, his privileges,  
 and his possessions. You see, we do not measure ourselves  
 against ourselves but against His law and when we find out  
 how much we owe our Lord it is not likely that we should take  
 our brother by the throat and say as the scriptures pay me  
 that thou owest, if an y treat me badly try to rob me, harm  
 me, sneer at me, turn a cold shoulder to me, who am I that I  
 should resent it? Brethren, we need for our right relation  
 to our fellows, a deeper conviction of our own sinfulness  
 before Him.

Right there is the sharp test for us Christian people.  
 If I have learned myself and have patiently received God's part  
 I shall be meek with God and men. If I am not meek with  
 God and with man, have I received God's pardon? On great  
 reason why so many of Christian people have so little con-  
 sciousness of God's forgiving mercy as a constant joy in their

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lives is because they have so little obeyed the commandment  
be imitators of God and walk in love. If God had forgiven and  
loved us. Fourth, forbearance. It means to abstain  
from condemning others, ~~xxx~~ to refrain from judging the actions

and motives of those about ~~xxx~~ you. With all lowliness and  
meekness, with longsuffering. Forbearing one another in love.  
Ephesians 4:2. This generation is quick with deadly trust  
but slow with the ointment of healing.

The harsh criticisms of others and unfair appraisal of ~~x~~  
those about you may hurt them but it hurts you more, than it  
hurts them. Many a person is lonely today because he has been  
driven away by his own bitterness. The very friends he knew  
Many marriages go on the rocks because they scolding and nagging  
and they only discover this mistake after ~~xxx~~ it is too late.  
The Bible tells us Titus 3:2 Speak evil of no man but gentle  
showing all meekness unto all men. You cannot be happy as  
long as you magnify the faults of others and minimize their  
virtues. This is the answer to many neighborhood quarrells,  
family fusses, and community feuds. Forbearing one another  
and forgiving one another if any man have a quarrell against  
you, even as Christ forgave you so also do you. Col. 3:13.

There is the story of the old deacon who was goaded and  
who was mistreated time and time again by an enemy and he

publicly avowed that he would kill his enemy. His enemy heard  
of his intentions and awaited to see what this harmless old  
saint would do. Actually instead of rendering evil for evil  
the old deacon sought out every opportunity to do his enemy  
good. This was at first a source of merriment and some slight  
annoance. And at last he risk his life to save the drowning  
wife of his enemy, and the deadlock between them was broken.  
All right said his enemy, you have done what you said you would  
do. You have killed me or at least you have killed the man ~~x~~  
that I was. Now what can I do for you. Paul urged his converts  
not to go to law with one another. He said, Why do you not  
rather take wrong. Let us understand that the evil speech and  
acts which would injure us to set on fire of hell and nothing  
could better fulfill the purpose of our great adversary than  
that the passions should pass from the wrongdoer to be wronged.  
A man of quick temper may be extremely inflammable. They are  
like touchwood to the flame, like gunpowder to the spark. But  
the meek man on the contrary meets wrong with passive  
resistiveness which quinces the fire calm and gentle answer  
he turns away wrath. His refusal to be inflamed. He establish  
as quarantine through which the first germs of the epidemic  
cannot. It is like an antiseptic. ~~lines 10 read end of page~~  
Fifth, he will receive guidance. The meek man will be  
guided in judgment and the meek will he teach His way. The



comes as a gift as a legacy, it comes to us because the meek would never ~~take~~ seize it. An heir is a true child of the real possessor. The promise however seems incredible and yet is true. Men of startling conscience not meeting persecution with persecution inherited America. When you consider how Kansas was possessed by the Minnites who began there for a witness Emmanuel Kant tells of the forbearance of his father. When his father actually was effected by a quarrell between a rival harness making company that his father gained his son's love a better reward than all the profit. He said that even in the conversation of the family the quarrell was mentioned with such forbearance and love towards the opponent that the thought of it, thought, I was only a boy will ~~me~~ never leave me. Jesus was meek and He talked about ~~me~~ inheriting the earth and we can see why the inheritance comes. We know that Satan is at odds with himself. He is blind and he has no odw reverence for God. Now in conclusion would you like to have this meekness? There is no fountain from which it flows save the open heart of Christ. We will never take this ~~meekness~~ unto ourselves. The poor people who want off and made themselves monks were trying to make themselves meek. We shall never do it. It cannot be done. Nothing but the Holy Spirit can humble us. Nothing but

be adorned by meekness and we will receive guidance. You know that is why they put the goad in the harness of the oxen. To keep him under control. They were put there not to harm the oxen but to make him useful, to direct his energies into constructive channels and many of you have been kicking against these goads, you quarrell, ~~xxxx~~ with this and that and the other and God cannot do through a rebellious life what he would like to do. Meekness you know is not something that you acquire yourself, you cannot get it at college or in a laboratory. It is God-given. Don't stand and lament for your bad luck and your bad breaks in the past. You'll never find rest for your soul in that way. And you will never live the Christian life in your own strength, you must be guided by Him. It should be remembered that those who are harse and self-asserted these who are covetous and trampled in brute force, are not meek but we know that those who are humble, you see. And those who are not so concerned about their rights but concerned about their duties. A meek walk is a quiet Godly walk. Others seek revenge, but the meek is a peace wrath. You see the words cut across the fashion in Christ's own time. The Jews asserted with pride concerning their race. The Romans had great pride in their power. The Greeks had pride in their knowledge and we know there are many characteristics similiar to this in this modern age in which

we live. But the meek are content to walk in the shadow where God keeps watch over His own. We know notice that these great

examples that we touched on in the early part of this message that these men left everything in the hands of God, the whole future was in God's hands and if they suffered, they suffered unjustly. We learn to say with Paul which was his policy

Vengeance is mine I will repay, saith the Lord. We need not repay. We just deliver ourselves into the hands of God, the Lord will revenge. He will ~~xxxxxx~~ repay. We have nothing to

do. We leave ourselves and our cause and our rights and everything with God with a quietness in spirit and in mind. We know that this will be true not only now but in the hereafter when we meet Christ on the judgment seat. If we dig a pit

now, we are liable to be put in that pit, as was the case of Adonibezk who cut off the thumbs and the toes of 70 kings and later we know that he had his own cut off. Or else we look at the Jews who crucified Jesus of Nazareth and so many of them were crucified by the same Romans on wooden crosses.

IV. The astounding reward of these Godly examples of meekness. Even now the meek soul gets the best out of life. The world does not think so. It thinks that the meek must be worse

because they will not stand upon their rights, they will not use a sword in self-defense, they will meet men on their own

terms, but they find more joy and pleasure in simple joys than wrongdoers in their wealth. There is no tinge of conscience or bitter memory of wrongdoing to jar the sweet content of holy thongs.

Do not be greatly concerned when wrong is done you. Possess your soul in patience, hide under the wing of God, do not let this rob you of your power. Do not be discouraged because the Bible tells us that the meek will conquer this earth

Paul said with we already have a great inheritance, having nothing and yet possessing all things. In I Cor. 6:11 says, do ye not know that saints shall judge the world. You are going to judge the world, you are going to judge angels, and if children and heirs and joint heirs with Christ, you

see that if we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him. You see as if it is ~~the~~ a quote from the Psalm put cold water on the expectations of these Jews who thought about the Messiah who would come with His legions and conquer. You see, it will not be like the world. You get in a crowd and you see how

your elbows can become sharp and how many feet you can step on and open up a road for yourself, but in the majority of cases the meek man will stand on the edge of the crowd here and Christ gives him a great promise.

He said something about inheritance. This is an astonishing reward inherits the earth. Inherit means that reward

The Holy Spirit can make us poor in spirit and make us mourn and put this mind in us. There is also something else we would point out in this invitation that Christians already have the Holy Spirit and there is no excuse for not being meek. The man who is outside has an excuse. The man who is not a Christian it is impossible for him to possess this but the man who has believed Christ and the Holy Spirit, this is the claim of every Christian. It is not something that you do, and that I can do, it is a direct fruit of the Spirit. We need to confess with shame not only the smallness of our stature but our own utter imperfection.

Sept 70 -  
20. May - Mar 15 16/10 A.M.