

# **A GREAT FUTURE FOR THE MEEK**

## **(Sermon Summary)**

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**Sunday Morning – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Reading: 2 Corinthians 10:1-11; Matthew 5:5**

Being meek is not something that the world values greatly. Culture is more impressed if we are assertive and promote ourselves. This is not something new. When Dr Lloyd-Jones was preaching on this verse, he noted the same problems in his own generation. People associate being meek with being weak. It carries with it the idea of being taken advantage of and goes against the idea that we must always win.

### **1. Meekness considered.**

Meekness is the capacity to absorb injuries to oneself without retaliating or being angry and vengeful. It is to be self-possessed and to have mastery over one's feelings. It is a good trait of character and indicates that one has inner strength. It is to be able to rule one's spirit (Proverbs 16:32). It does not mean that one is inactive or passive, or that one is de-sensitised to injustices. It does not mean that one is silent and never resists.

We are to consider Moses as a meek man (Number 12:3). Yet, while being meek, he showed great leadership, standing up to Pharaoh and leading Israel in battles. Yet, at the same time, he had to endure so much hurt and injury against himself. Despite all the evidence that the Lord was with him through the signs and wonders that he was able to work, there were always complaints against him (Exodus 16: 1-3; Exodus 17:1-4). He did not answer back but related his cause to God in prayer. Moses had mastered himself and had overcome the passion that saw him kill the Egyptian earlier in his life. He had now been trained to act differently. We do not find him clinging to office (Number 11:26-30) but he is happy for others to share in it.

To be meek means that one's self has died. Thoughts like, 'I must be admired, I must be well thought of,' have disappeared. Gone is any idea that we should be the only people who are visible. Instead there is an absence of anger or jealousy. One has ceased to be

interested in the view of other people about oneself. It also means that we are able to overlook offences against self (Proverbs 19:11).

All this relates to the subject of self-control. We are not protective of our own reputations or prickly and defensive. There is a peace and calm at the heart of the soul.

## **2. Meekness and strength.**

There is, however, a zeal for the honour of God. This will mean that we will act if the honour of God is at stake. It also means that we will act to defend the honour of others. Moses broke the tablets of the Ten Commandments when he heard the Israelites at play and dishonouring God worshipping around the idol they had made. David was generous and merciful to Saul and Shimei but was also able to administer justice when needed. Abraham allowed Lot to choose first where he wanted to graze his flocks but was also strong enough to go and rescue Lot when he was in trouble.

Paul was a meek man (2 Corinthians 10:1) and was willing to suffer many indignities. But he could also be very strong such as when he reproved Peter to his face. He was willing to act with strength when the gospel was at stake. Meekness means that we are able to trust ourselves and intervene.

## **3. Christ – our sure example.**

Our Lord mentions His meekness in Matthew 11:29. He will not break a bruised reed. He is not angry and impatient. Paul writes about Him in Philippians 2:5-8 regarding His unwillingness to seek His own honour. Peter writes about how He ignores reproaches (1 Peter 2:21-23). He has self-mastery and self-control.

It is our calling to be meek and patient. We are to show this to each other, to children, to parents. We avoid causing injury through being impatient. Meekness is attractive and helps to build communities.

## **4. Meekness inherits the earth.**

We read this in our present verse. You can also read it in Psalm 37:9-11. Meek people do not need the world's success. They do not need its approval or its kind words. Meek people believe that the best is yet to come. They believe that, in Christ, they own the title to the earth. With this in mind we are able to forego opportunities, advantages,

positions and favours. We know that what is ahead of us is beyond our wildest dreams. We believe these promises and look beyond this world to the kingdom of God.