

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Mighty Meek

SERMON REFERENCE: Galatians 5:22-23

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1446

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) Galatians 5:22-23

- i) A quality in the life of the Lord Jesus was meekness.
- ii) All of these are qualities in the life and temperament of our dear Savior.
 - (1) They are fruit that He produces in us and through us.
 - (2) They are the fruit of the Spirit.

b) How would you like to be immensely wealthy?

- i) How would you like to have the wisdom to know how to use your wealth?

c) How would you like to have wisdom, guidance, leadership, and insight?

- i) That no matter what crisis you faced in life, you would know exactly and precisely what to do.

d) How would you like to have great peace and serenity that come out of a vital relationship with God?

e) How would you like to worship God in a way that would bring great peace and great rest?

f) Today's message will show us how to have this kind of wealth, wisdom, and worship.

- i) It will help us learn how to have this incredible wealth, guidance, leadership, and how to have great peace and joy in the midst of it.
 - (1) All of these are wrapped up in the word "meekness."

g) Regarding this wealth:

- i) Matthew 5:5
- ii) This is indescribable wealth.

h) About this wisdom and guidance that we need:

- i) Psalm 25:9
 - (1) God says that if we will be meek, then He will guide us and teach us.
 - (a) We will know His way.
 - (2) He will give us wisdom for whatever circumstance we're in and whatever crisis we face.

i) Regarding this rest, peace, and serenity that we can have:

- i) Matthew 11:28-30
 - (1) The Lord Jesus makes an invitation to us.
 - (2) We can learn of His meekness, and we will have rest.

j) Today, we will see how this can unfold and work in our lives.

2) THE MEANING OF MEAKNESS (MATTHEW 11:29)

a) Meekness is not cowardliness.

- i) Matthew 11:29
- ii) Was Jesus Christ a coward?
 - (1) He took a whip and drove the money changers out of the temple.
 - (a) John 2:15
 - (2) He fasted and prayed for forty nights alone in the wilderness.
 - (a) Matthew 4:1-2
 - (b) The Bible says that there were wild beasts out there, too.

- (3) The Lord Jesus set His face like a flint toward Jerusalem and embraced the cross.
 - (a) John 10:18
 - (4) He sweat drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane.
 - (a) Luke 22:44
 - (5) The Lord Jesus suffered in agony and blood.
 - (6) He was the manliest man that ever lived, and yet He said that He was meek and lowly of heart.
- b) Meekness is not weakness.
- i) Many times, we associate meekness with weakness, but it is the opposite.
 - (1) Meekness is incredible strength.
 - ii) The Bible says that, other than the Lord Jesus, Moses was the meekest man ever to live.
 - (1) Numbers 12:3
 - (2) Moses was not the weakest man.
 - (3) Moses was a commander-in-chief who led the children of Israel out of the land of bondage to the Promised Land.
 - (4) Moses was a mighty man and a valiant man of valor.
 - iii) It takes incredible strength to be meek.
- c) Meekness is strength under control.
- i) When a wild horse would be broken to ride upon, it would be said that he had been made meek.
 - (1) He was broken so that he could be used.
- d) We have all sorts of instincts, abilities, and ambitions that are gifts of God.
- i) The devil would like to take and pervert these for his own use.
 - ii) God wants to bring them under His control for His glory.
 - iii) The devil wants to pervert them to bring shame upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) There are three things that we can do with these natural abilities, drives, and ambitions that God has given us:
- i) Self-assertion
 - (1) Just assert ourselves.
 - (a) This means, in effect, to let the horses run wild.
 - (2) If the ancient people wanted to do something that was ungodly, then they would take that wicked desire and make a god out of it.
 - (a) For example, if they wanted to get drunk, then they would legitimize it by making a god of wine.
 - (i) So, they would worship the god of wine by getting drunk.
 - (b) If they got angry and wanted revenge, then they would make a god of war.
 - (i) They would worship the god of war through their hate, revenge, and war.
 - ii) Self-restraint
 - (1) This means to dampen all of those desires.

- (a) Hold yourself down; restrain yourself.
- (b) Self-assertion lets the horses run wild and eliminates the rider, while self-restraint cripples the horse.
- (2) This is a form of Buddhism.
 - (a) Buddhists believe that what makes a person unhappy and the reason that people cannot get along is because they have unbridled desires.
 - (i) This leads to frustration.
 - (b) Therefore, they believe that you have to bring yourself to a place where you don't have these strong desires, and you restrain yourself until you come to a place of nothingness.
 - (3) This is negative, and Christianity is not a negative faith.
 - (a) Christianity is a positive faith.
- iii) Self-surrender
 - (1) God's way is not to eliminate the rider or to cripple the horse; but God's way is to take the strengths, ambitions, and drive that He has given us and yield them to the Lord Jesus Christ and let Him control us.
 - (2) Romans 6:19
 - (3) God does not want to take our abilities, gifts, and proclivities and cripple us.
 - (4) God wants to take all that He gave us and control it for His glory.
 - (a) For example, God says that we are not to lose our temper, but He teaches that we are to use our temper.
 - (i) God does not want to take the temper out of us.
 - (ii) The Bible says that we are to be angry and sin not.
 - 1. Ephesians 4:26
 - (iii) The Bible says that when Jesus saw the money changers in the temple, He was moved with anger.
 - 1. He did not lose His temper; He used it.
 - 2. John 2:13-17
 - (iv) His temper was not out of control.
 - 1. His temper was in control.
 - (v) Jesus wants to control our temper and use it for His glory.
 - 1. There are some things that ought to make us angry.
 - (b) The Lord Jesus wants us to use our tongues but not to lose our tongues.
 - (i) The tongue that has been used to gripe, slander, fuss, and feud can now be used to praise the Lord Jesus.
 - (c) People should have an ambition.
 - (i) Ambition is not wrong for a Christian.
 - (ii) Our ambition should not be to be greedy, to be the biggest, the best, or the most powerful.

(iii) Our ambition ought to be like the Apostle Paul who wanted to be like the Lord Jesus and to serve Him with every ounce of his being.

(5) This is strength under control.

(6) A meek person is a person who has turned the reins over to the Lord Jesus Christ and let Jesus do for him and through him what he could not do for himself.

3) THE METHOD OF MEEKNESS (JAMES 1:21-22)

a) James 1:21-22

i) The word “soul” in this passage is the Greek word “psyche.”

b) We are to receive with meekness the Word.

i) Meekness is strength under control.

ii) To be controlled by the Lord, we have to know His will and His way.

(1) In order to know His will and His way, we have to know His Word.

(a) Therefore, we have to receive the Word with meekness.

iii) We do not know enough in order to guide our lives.

(1) We need guidance.

(2) God knows what we do not know.

c) In order to receive the engrafted Word with meekness, there are three things that are necessary, according to James:

i) There has to be a repentant spirit.

(1) James 1:21

(a) In this verse, the word “filthiness” literally means “wax in the ear.”

(i) We need to get the spiritual wax out of our ears.

(b) The spiritual wax is the “superfluity of naughtiness.”

(i) “Superfluity” means “that which is excess or remains or is leftover.”

(2) Many people who have been saved have a remainder sin, a residual sin, that is still in their lives.

(a) The superfluity of naughtiness is that remainder, that unsanctified part of our lives.

(3) We have to come to a place where we lay apart the wickedness and turn from it.

(4) If we want God to speak to us and to understand the Bible, then we have to get the spiritual wax out of our ears.

(a) The only way to do this is by repentance.

(i) Repent of that sin.

ii) There must be a receptive spirit.

(1) James 1:21

(a) In the Greek language, there are two words that are translated as “receive.”

(i) One has the idea of self-prompted taking.

1. This is reaching out and getting something for ourselves.

2. This is not the word that is used in this verse.
 3. We are not going to receive the Word with that kind of a spirit.
 4. Someone may know Greek, Hebrew, and have a high IQ, but he will not go into the Word of God and pull the truth out with those things.
 - a. He may learn the facts, but he will never know the truth.
 - b. He will not understand the real message of the Word of God.
- (ii) The word that is used in this passage means to receive like we would receive a gift; and we would say, "Thank you."
1. It can also mean to receive as we would a guest.
- (2) Do we "welcome" the Word of God?
- (a) Have we opened the door of our hearts?
 - (b) There are people who try to make the Word of God pass by the judgment bar of their minds before they decide whether or not the Word is welcome.
 - (i) They will never learn the truth that way.
- (3) We need to lay aside our intellectual pride, humble our hearts, and welcome the Word of God with meekness.
- iii) There must be a responsive spirit.
- (1) James 1:22
 - (2) We don't welcome the Word just so we can get more facts.
 - (3) Once we get the Word in our hearts, then we become doers of the Word.
 - (a) What we really believe, we live by.
 - (i) The rest is just religious talk.
 - (4) If we are not doers of the Word, then we deceive ourselves.
 - (a) If we don't live by it, then we are guilty of grand self-deception.
 - (b) We are losing our psyche rather than saving our psyche.
 - (i) James 1:8
 - (ii) Matthew 7:26
 - (c) To hear and not to do is absolute soul insanity.
 - (5) Impression without expression leads to depression.
 - (a) If we get the facts but do not live by those facts, then it will have a bad effect on our lives.
 - (6) Our Bible knowledge needs to go through our heads and hearts and come out in our lives.
- 4) THE MOTIVE FOR MEEKNESS (MATTHEW 5:5)
- a) The motive is to be incredibly wealthy, have guidance and insight and leadership in every crisis of life, and to have serenity and rest for our soul.
 - b) The wealth:
 - i) Matthew 5:5

- (1) Jesus said that the meek shall inherit the Earth.
 - ii) Man lost his inheritance by a lack of meekness when he rebelled against God in the Garden.
 - iii) People today are not able to enjoy what they think they have because of a rebellious spirit.
 - (1) They never have their true resources because of rebellion.
 - iv) What does it mean to inherit the Earth?
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 3:21
 - (2) 2 Corinthians 6:10
 - (3) Psalm 24:1
 - (4) We belong to God; therefore, everything that God has belongs to us.
 - (a) Yet, nothing belongs to us because we are stewards of the Lord.
 - (i) "Having nothing, yet possessing all things."
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 6:10
 - (5) There comes a time when all things come into the possession of God's children.
 - (a) We are going to reign with the Lord Jesus.
 - (b) Now, it is an inheritance in our hearts; one day it will be an inheritance in our home.
 - c) The wisdom:
 - i) Psalm 25:9
 - ii) It is not that God is not speaking; we are not hearing.
 - (1) We are not getting ourselves meek where God can guide us.
 - (a) If we will get meek and humble ourselves with a repentant, receptive, and responsive spirit, then God will guide us.
 - (i) He will show us His way, and we will be able to hear.
 - d) The worship:
 - i) Matthew 11:28-29
 - (1) Jesus was a carpenter, and He knew what it was to make a yoke for oxen.
 - (a) Jesus never made a yoke that did not fit just right.
 - (b) When an ox was in a yoke, he had been made to be meek.
 - (i) The ox has tremendous strength, but the yoke of the master was on the ox so it could pull the load.
 - (2) Jesus says, "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart."
 - (a) We will be like He is and find rest for our souls.
 - (i) That is the meekness that the Lord Jesus wants to give us today.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) Do you want this wealth, wisdom, worship, and rest?
 - i) It is found in Jesus.
 - b) John 3:16
 - i) When God loved, He loved the world.

- ii) When God gave, He gave His Son.
- c) Come to Jesus.
 - i) Take His yoke, and you will find rest for your soul.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16