

## The Meek are not Weak

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 (AP) Sanctus Real Concert Nov.22
- B. Slide3 **The Landing**: The Landing is a **safe, healing** place where teens can live *a freer, healthier, and more God centered life*. For teens who are struggling w/the challenges of life.
  - 1. **Informational mtg today at 1pm** in the **Mercy rm** (old nursery) if you're interested in being apart of the *leadership team*.
- C. Slide4 **Persecuted Church Sunday**:
  - 1. **Christians** are the most persecuted religious group worldwide. **An average of 180 Christians** around the world are **killed** each month for their faith.
  - 2. An estimated **100 million** Christians worldwide are persecuted.
  - 3. Slide5 According to the U.S. Department of State, in more than **60 countries** Christians face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors because of their faith in Christ. **North Korea is consistently the worst country for Christians**.
  - 4. More Christians lost their lives in the **20th century** than in all the previous centuries combined.
  - 5. Slide6 **20 different Prayer Cards**:
    - a) You have in your hands 1 of the **20 worst countries** for Christian persecution.
    - b) There is a **brief description** of the situation, **needs** for prayer, **a particular person** to pray for and info on how to **send a letter** to a Christian in prison for their faith.
- D. Slide7 **Prayer**: Charlotte, Kel, Dave/Brian Madden (Haiti). Dr. Les (Burma). HEF/Lindsey (Haiti)

### II. Slide8 **Intro: The Meek are not Weak**

- A. We continue with *Jesus' recipe for happiness*...in the beatitudes.
  - 1. So far we've had **#1 The poor in spirit** are blest, *not* the proud **#2 The comfort** Christ promises is for those who **1st mourn** over their sins & the sins of others. **NOW**, He goes on to show that the way of  **blessing** is also through  **Meekness**, *not* by being *haughty, forward, arrogant, or aggressive*.
- B. Slide9 I heard about a guy named *J. Upton Dickson* who started an organization called **DOORMATS** or *Dependent Organization of Really Meek and Timid Souls*.
  - 1. Their motto was *The meek shall inherit the earth - if that's OK with everybody*. Their organizations symbol was the **yellow traffic light**.

2. Slide10 In our society, people associate meekness with weakness. We think they are *indecisive, pushovers, cowardly, milquetoast*.
  3. Today we don't look upon meekness as a desirable quality. Can you imagine someone listing meekness as an admirable quality on their resume?
  4. Slide11 But contrary to this popular view, Jesus listed meekness as one of the chief qualities for a kingdom citizen. *It is a quality He looks for in those who name His name and associate themselves with His kingdom.*
- C. We need to be careful that we don't associate meekness with a certain kind of **personality**. Moses, Jesus, and Paul were not pushovers.
1. A person could have a **very strong personality** and still **demonstrate meekness**. On the other hand, a person could be **very quiet and unassuming** and **lack meekness**.
  2. Meekness in our lives will reveal that our **hope & sufficiency** is **Christ and not ourselves**.

### III. Slide12 **BLESSED ARE THE MEEK (5a) The Role**

- A. Πραυς / Praus - 1 way it was used in secular Gk in Paul's day was *to Tame wild animals. To calm those that are irritated or excited.* TDNT
- B. Meekness is Power under control
1. Prov.16:32 *Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.* Thats Power **under Control**
  2. Prov.25:28 *Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.* Thats Power **out of Control**
    - a) Someone said, *Temper is such a wonderful thing that it's a shame to lose it.*
      - (1) Slide13 We **temper steel** to make it stronger (heat up to higher critical temp, then rapid cool down/quenching, repeat). **It's a long process** till it meets the requirements of its maker.
    - b) Slide14 Aristotle said, *Anyone can become angry, that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way - This is not easy.*

3. A lady once told *Billy Sunday*, *There is nothing wrong w/losing my temper. I blow up, then it's all over with.* The Evangelist replied, *So does a shotgun, but look at the damage that's left behind.*
- C. **Slide15** Meekness is not *weakness* - **Moses** coming down off mnt & finding golden calf. **Jesus** doing a little *Spring cleaning* in His Father's temple.
- D. Meekness is the opposite of someone *strutting their stuff.* *It is the opposite of self-assertiveness & self-interest.*
- Slide16a** Bonhoeffer described this meek person, *When reproached, they hold there peace. When treated w/violence they endure it patiently. When men drive them from their presence, they yield their ground. They will not go to law to defend their rights, or make a scene when they suffer injustice, nor do they insist on their legal rights. They are determined to leave their rights to God Alone! Their rights are in the will of their Lord.*
- E. **Slide16b** **Moses** was known as *the meekest man* in Num.12:3. Interesting, the context was when his older sister & younger brother (Miriam & Aaron) were complaining about him thinking himself to be *more important than others* (i.e. themselves). *He was Meek thru this whole ordeal.*
- F. **Jesus** - Mt.11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- This is Jesus' only autobiographical description of his temperament/personality, *I am Meek/gentle & Lowly/humble in heart.*
  - Matthew only uses Meek 3 times** (Mt.5:5; 11:29(just read) 21:5) *All are Jesus words.*
    - The 3rd is, Mt.21:5 *Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble/meek, riding on a donkey.* The entry of Jesus is that of a non-violent, non-warlike king of Salvation & Peace (which was radically opposite of the Zealots).
      - (1) Are you meek?** Ask yourself, *Are you exercising self-Control?*
- G. **Paul** - 2 Cor.10:1 *Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ - who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.*
- 1 Thes.2:7 *But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.*

H. Slide17a Here's a 6-fold test of meekness (Wiersbe)

I. What is our attitude toward the **circumstances of life**?

1. The Old Testament Context for Meekness – Psalm 37 [almost identical to Mt.5:5]

a) Psalm 37 shows us several qualities of meekness: *Doesn't fret over evildoers or envy them. Trusts in the Lord and does good. Delights in the Lord. Commits his/her way to the Lord. Waits patiently for the Lord in the face of the wickedness and scheming of men. Refrains from anger against the evil. Hopes in the Lord.*

2. Meekness is the grace of the Spirit at work in our lives to keep us from angrily seeking revenge **or** promoting our own cause **or** harboring resentment toward others. **Instead**, we trust in the Lord, delight in Him, commit our way to Him, hope in Him, and leave the outcome in His hands. Meekness is about faith and self-restraint.

a) **ILL:** A.W. Tozer said, *The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything.*  
That is his motto!

J. Slide17b What is our attitude toward **God's Word**?

1. **James** wrote to a group of Christians who were at war w/each other (4:1).

*They weren't receiving God's word w/Meekness.*

2. Remember how **David** received God's word spoken thru his Chaplain Nathan, *Thou art the man* [David received it as a meek man - **no** arguing - **no** excuses - **no** defending himself. He said, *I have sinned against the Lord*]

K. Slide17c What's our attitude toward **one who sins** against us?

1. Gal.6:1 msg *If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day's out.*

a) When you have a Christian brother/sister fall, you have the power to **hurt** them, **but meekness** is power under control. **You have the power to help them.**

2. **Restore** - *To set a broken bone.* [A doctor has the power to help or hurt]  
 a) It also is in the *continuous present tense*, suggesting the necessity for **patience & perseverance** throughout the process.

L. **Slide17d** What is our attitude toward **division in the Church?**

1. There are people always wanting to **take sides & divide** God's people.
2. A Christian who exercises **meekness** isn't interested in **taking sides**, **but** in **taking time** to follow Eph.4:3 *Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.*  
 a) Follow Abraham's example, *Please let there be no strife between you and me...for we are brethren.*

M. **Slide17e** What is our attitude toward **people who disagree w/us?**

1. 2 Tim.2:24,25 *A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.*  
 a) It is possible to win arguments, & lose friends, & even souls.  
 b) Don't be a Christian that uses a **machine gun** on full auto...to kill a *mosquito*.  
 c) **Even** one who **opposes** the word of God has a better chance of being convinced if we have *a meek & gentle spirit.*

N. **Slide17f** What is our attitude toward **the unsaved?**

1. 1 Pet.3:15 *if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way.*
2. Don't beat them w/your Bible club.
3. He told us to be **witnesses** **not** *Prosecuting Attorneys.*
4. **High pressure salesmanship methods** to win souls, is **power out of Control.**  
 a) Jesus could have overpowered Nicodemus, **or** crushed the woman at the well, **but** instead He *patiently led them into the truth* of the word of God.

IV. **Slide18** **FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH (5b)** **The Reward**

- A. **Inherit/posses the world's goods?** **No**, Jesus possessed little of the world's goods.

1. Spurgeon said, *He has the best of this world who thinks least of it, & least of himself.*
2. *Those who now possess it by violence & injustice shall lose it, & those who here have utterly renounced it, who were meek to the point of the cross, shall rule the new Earth.* Dietrich Bonhoeffer

B. **Slide19 God does not forsake the earth:** He **made** it, **sent** His Son to it, & **on it** He built His Church.

1. When the Kingdom finally comes, the meek shall possess the earth. The face of the earth will be renewed, & it will belong to the flock of Jesus.

C. **Slide20 Old Testament Roots** - Ps.37:10,11 *For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. But **the meek shall inherit the earth**, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

1. **Slide21** Possessing the land was important to the Jews. It was the fulfillment of God's blessing promised to Abram. [see 9,11,22,29,34]
2. This Psalm speaks about **the world's way** vs. **God's way** of possessing it:
  - a) **World's way** is by evil deeds, plotting, power, devious dealings, taking advantage of others.
  - b) **God's way** is to trust Him, delight in Him, commit to Him, wait on Him, live rightly. In other words, to display meekness.
  - c) **World's plan** will end in withering like grass, being cut off, perishing, passing away.
  - d) **Righteous (meek) will inherit the land**, have plenty, be upheld, protected, delivered.
    - (1) **Contrast is clear.** Those who **humbly trust** in the Lord will inherit the land and God's blessing. Those who **proudly grasp** and **do evil** will perish.
3. **Future fulfillment** - The ultimate inheritance of the land will be realized in a new heaven and a new earth.
  - a) The meek don't have to strive and claw for their Inheritance. As John Piper put it... *You don't need the vain pleasures of one-up-manship because God has already made you an heir of the world? Would I feel the need to brag that my house is*

*bigger than your house if I knew that my Father owned **the city** and I was the beneficiary in his will?*

D. Communion:

1. Bread
2. Cup