WALKING IN MEEKNESS

**DATE: 2/24/2016 Wed.**

**TEXT: Galatians 5:22, 23**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue to study the Book of Galatians …

We are continuing in the section that commands us to Walk in the Spirit

**v.16 *– “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”***

To ***“Walk”*** speaks of the way someone conducts themselves

It should be the desire of every Born Again Believer to want to Honor God

We do this by being Conscientious (Taking great care)

The only way we’ll be able to do that is by Yielding to the Holy Spirit’s Leading

Yielding requires Hearing and Heeding (serious attention)

**Hebrews 11:6 *– “But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

It begins with a Faith life, Believing and Obeying God’s Promises and Commands

In **vs. 22 & 23** we find a list of virtues that ought to dominate our life

We have looked at, so far, - ***“Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, gentleness, goodness & faith”***

This evening we will be looking at the 8th virtue …

***“Meekness”***

So what is Biblical Meekness?

Meekness is a word that is rarely used today

The media certainly doesn’t highlight stories about Meekness

You won’t find the Top Ten Meekest People on the cover of some popular magazine

More than likely this is due to society’s emphasis on an Individual’s Strength and Independence

(An Evolution and survival of the fittest mentality)

Meekness today is associated with a lack of personality and strength

In most people’s minds, Meekness equates to Weakness

As a matter of fact, when I looked it up in the Encarta Dictionary, it used this as one of the definitions …

**Cowed** – *showing submissiveness and a lack of initiative or will*

Meekness however is not Weakness

In fact, quite the opposite is true,

Why? Because it requires a very *uncommon* strength to show forth Meekness

In one of the Bible Dictionary’s it’s defines as …

*“a submissive and teachable spirit toward God that reveals itself in genuine consideration toward others”*

Meekness is willingness to yield, but is never spineless

Meekness requires that we lay aside our own needs so as to meet the emotional needs of other

That is unheard of today

**Quote:** Vance Havner once wrote – *“God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce crops, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to make bread, broken bread to give strength. It was a broken alabaster box that gave forth perfume. It was a broken Peter, weeping bitterly, who returned in greater power than before”*

Jesus Himself was Meek

**Matthew 21:5 *– “Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass”***

Let’s stand to read God’s Precious Word together

**vs. 22, 23**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “ORIGIN” OF MEEKNESS**

Where does Meekness come from?

True Meekness was first Modeled for us in the Life of people like Moses

**Numbers 12:3 *– “(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth)”***

Then in the NT in the Life of the Lord Jesus

**Philippians 2:6 – 8 – *“Who, (Jesus) being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:” “But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:” “And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”***

***“Being in the form of God”*** that is, God in the flesh

Jesus had the right to do whatever He wanted, but, for our sake, He ***“became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”***

**I Peter 2:23 *– “Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:”***

The Lord Jesus modeled for us the virtue of Meekness

Meekness originates with God

Therefore …

**A. Meekness is ‘Produced’ by the Spirit**

**Colossians 1:27 – *“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”***

Again, we must always keep in mind that the results of any of our efforts are due to the work of the Holy Spirit

Being filled with the Spirit of God is to be under His influence

That assumes that we know the Word of God and are living by Faith

***“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”***

God is the originator of all things

He is always previous

As we learn the Word of God, we then submit our will to God’s will and are obedient to His direction

**1.** The Meek will ‘Learn from’ God

**Psalm 25:9 –** ***“The meek will He guide in judgment: and the meek will He teach His way”***

Remember how we defined Meekness?

*“a submissive and teachable spirit toward God that reveals itself in genuine consideration toward others”*

I’ve found that most folks are self-willed, stubborn, determined, obstinate, know-it-alls …

Therefore we must recognize these tendencies in ourselves and confess and forsake them

That is if we want to be obedient to God

**Ill.** Two wives were doing their laundry at a laundromat. They were both mending their husband’s pants. One wife said, *“My husband is so miserable. Nothing goes right for him. Our home is always a place of despair. When we go to church, he is always critical of everyone. The song leader doesn’t know how to lead singing, and the pastor and deacons are all idiots.* The other wife chimed in and said, *“That isn’t at all what our house is like. My husband is always excited about what’s going on at church and can’t wait to get there. He loves the singing and the preaching! We laugh all the time and enjoy our family”* It got really quite as the women continued to mend their husband’s pants. You see the first wife was mending the seat of her husband’s pants while the second was mending the knees.

The Meek ‘Learn from’ God

**2.** The Meek will be ‘Satisfied by’ God

**Psalm 22:26 –** ***“The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek Him: your heart shall live for ever”***

The Meek are content … ***“satisfied”***

They recognize the Creator in their life

Most folks are not content today, they are never happy, they are always complaining about something

Stop and listen to yourself sometime

**Quote:** Someone once said, *“The axe cannot boast of the trees it has cut down. It could do nothing but for the woodman. He made it, he sharpened it, and he used it. The moment he throws it aside, it becomes only old iron. O that we never lose sight of that thought”* We are just clay in the hands of the Potter.

**Meekness is ‘Produced’ by the Spirit**

When it comes to the Origins of Meekness, we see that…

**B. Meekness is ‘Praised’ by the Saviour**

Jesus said in **Matthew 5:5 *– “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth”***

To truly trust Christ as Saviour someone has to humble themselves in the sight of the Lord

To trust Christ requires Meekness

One day those who have truly trusted Him will also reign with Him

**Isaiah 29:19 *– “The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel”***

**THE “ORIGIN” OF MEEKNESS**

**II. THE “OPERATION” OF MEEKNESS**

How does Meekness work?

The Service of a Believer manifests itself in a Gentle spirit

**Ephesians 4:2 *– “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;”***

First, Meekness …

**A. Properly Responds to ‘Difficulty’**

We may not be able to control the actions of others

But we can control our response to them in the power of the Holy Spirit

I’ve found that most people respond incorrectly because they have never learned how they should respond

We need to start thinking through things

**Proverbs 22:3 – *“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished”***

**Titus 3:2 – *“To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men”***

**I Timothy 6:11 –*“But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness”***

Meekness defuses a bad temper

Meekness knows now to defuse a bad situation

Meekness is the strength to back away from a fight you know you could win

**Ill.** A Sunday school teacher was once asking some of the boys about the meaning of **Matthew 5:5**. He asked, *“Who are the Meek?”*

One little boy answered, *“Those who give soft answers to rough questions”* We would all do well to remember this child’s definition.

**Meekness is Properly Responding to ‘Difficulty’**

Next, Meekness …

**B. Properly Responds in ‘Relationships’**

**Ephesians 5:21 –** ***“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God”***

Most people don’t want to submit to anyone

**Ill**. I once married a couple where the young lady asked me to take out the vow that asked her to submit to her husband. I told her that I wouldn’t marry them then, in a huff she relented.

**I Peter 3:1-4 …**

Meekness is the ability to disagree agreeably

**THE “ORIGIN” OF MEEKNESS**

**THE “OPERATION” OF MEEKNESS**

**III. THE “OPPORTUNITY” OF MEEKNESS**

The first thing Meekness will do is to …

**A. ‘Reveal’ Christ in Us**

**Matthew 11:29, 30 – *“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” “For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light”***

Believers cannot win spiritual battles while walking in the Flesh

**I Peter 3:15, 16 –** ***“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” “Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ”***

Then, Meekness will …

**B. ‘Reflect’ the Word of God – James 1:21, 22**

**1.** Meekness will cause us to ‘Receive’ the Word **– v. 21**

***“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”***

Remember the definition for Meekness was *“a submissive and teachable spirit toward God”*

Teachable – *Someone who wants to be taught; apt to learn; also, readily receiving instruction*

A person who will ***“receive with meekness the engrafted Word”***

***“receive”*** *– means to welcome and ready to obey*

We allow the Word of God to do its work in us

***“engrafted”*** - means *planted, like a seed*

A Meek person is Teachable

However, a person who is not teachable, will end up struggling

**2.** Meekness will cause us to ‘Live in’ the Word **– v. 22**

***“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves”***

In **I Thessalonians 2:13** Paul expressed his thanks for the believers there because of how they received the Word and allowed it to work in their life

Paul said, ***“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the Word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in Truth, the*** ***Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe”***

There was a Demonstration of the Working of the Word

**Philippians 2:16 – *“Holding forth the Word of Life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain”***

**CONCLUSION**

Jesus is the ultimate example of Meekness

When He endured the torment of Calvary, He still had all power

He was still capable in every way of demonstrating His abilities

He could have come down at any time and destroyed those who had put Him there

However, in Meekness, He remained upon the Cross and endured the physical torment and the sin of the entire human race

Christ’s Meekness was anything BUT Weakness!

It was supernatural Strength

As we walk in the Spirit we are to show forth Meekness

**Colossians 3:12, 13 –** ***“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;” “Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye”***