

Sermon: Blessed are the meek

Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:11

The meaning of meek

The word translated as “meek” means gentle, mild, tame.

Praus actually means strength under control.

You can't be meek if you are weak.

1 Corinthians 16:13

Examples of meekness

The meekest man was Moses.

Numbers 12:3

The greatest example is Jesus.

Matthew 11:29

Paul learned the importance of meekness.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

The result of meekness

God's power trumps our efforts.

Matthew 19:27-30

The meek will inherit the earth for eternity.

Bible Study: Blessed are the meek

Getting to know you

1. Last Sunday's sermon was on meekness. Is there anything about the sermon you would like to discuss in your small group?
2. In what area of your life do you have difficulty trusting God to bring you ultimate success?

Going deeper

3. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. In one of the best descriptions of the counter-cultural values of Christ's kingdom, Paul declares that he is strong when he is weak and that power is perfected in weakness. In your own words, what do you think he means? How does this work?

We are much safer and more effective when we trust in God instead of working in our own strength. Sometimes we don't realize this until we come to the end of our own strength. If it takes our own failure, then it is worth it for us to summon God's strength. When we work in our own strength, we may feel compelled to employ sinful methods to try to ensure success. Sin will always ultimately fail (even though it might seem to convey an short-term advantage) and God's strength will always prevail.

4. Read 2 Kings 6:15-23. God says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay" (Dt. 32:35). Knowing that God has mighty armies of angels to protect his followers, how should this help is to live with meekness?

If our own protection is all up to us, we should live in constant vigilance and fear. We should fight extremely hard with all available tactics to make sure we and our loved ones stay safe. If God is for us, then the most important thing, the only important thing, is that we conduct ourselves the way God wants us to. Then he is responsible for our protection. Our only need is to discover God's will and submit to it.

5. Why did Elisha let his enemies live after they had tried very hard to find and kill him?

Elisha didn't have to worry about what would happen if he let his enemies live. He had seen the fiery chariots. He could show mercy because God is never challenged in his ability to protect his people. Elisha was secure in God's protection.

6. In what areas of your life is it hard for you to let go of the right to aggression, self-interest, self-protection, or revenge?

Putting it into practice

7. Do you want to be meek, as defined in the sermon? In other words, do you want to be strong and yet under control? Ask God to help you to trust in his protection and his justice.