

Why the Meek Inherit the Earth

Each and every one of us have different approaches to Bible Study. One of the approaches I have had, is to ask myself WHY the Scripture says various things. Let's exercise ourselves in that way this afternoon.

Jesus Christ made the comment:

Matthew 5: 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

He said this in relation to various other spiritual qualities. He spoke of the poor in spirit, of those who mourn, of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Most of these cases are fairly straightforward. If you hunger and thirst for something, and you are filled, you are satisfied. If you mourn, and you are comforted, your grief has been taken care of. But WHY should the meek inherit the earth? What has meekness got to do with inheriting this earth?

This is one of the beatitudes Jesus Christ inspired the Psalmist to write:

Psalm 37: 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

This is a wonderful thing, a wonderful concept for people to focus upon. It talks about them inheriting the earth, and delighting themselves in the abundance of peace.

Africa is a very impoverished part of the world. Sometimes people ask "*What can we do for these people?*" There is very little that we can do, in terms of physical help at this point in time. Anything we might try to do for them, causes others to prey upon them and take it away. For those of you who are students of American literature, if you want to understand a little bit about the society, you can read 'The Pearl' by John Steinbeck, and understand the way in which some of these societies exist. There is no real help for people.

God has recorded that the meek are going to inherit the earth, and that they are going to delight themselves in the abundance of peace! This is a portrayal of a WONDERFUL existence. When Jesus Christ made this comment "*Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth*" He was not using a throw-away phrase. There is something a little more to it, something a little DEEPER involved here.

Some people would say that it is not the whole earth that is being talked about, that it is the land, the land of Israel. Yet other Scriptures speak to the fact that it is not just the land, it is the entirety of the earth.

***Psalm 76: 1 In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.
2 In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.***

The Psalmist is very focused upon where he is addressing. He goes on and talks about the way in which God has taken care of His people and brought about great miracles on their behalf.

***6 At Your rebuke, O God of Jacob, Both the chariot and horse were cast into a dead sleep.
7 You, Yourself, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence When once You are angry?
8 You caused judgment to be heard from heaven; The earth feared and was still,***

The entirety of the earth feared and was still. Whose army was it, in which the chariot and the horse were cast into a deep sleep? Was it Egypt? Was it the Assyrians? God was CONSTANTLY intervening on the part of His people. It says "*the entirety of the earth feared and was still*".

9 When God arose to judgment, to deliver all the meek of the earth ...

God IS going to give judgment to the meek of the earth.

Notice another section of Scripture, where it talks about the concept of the meek and the entirety of the earth. In Zephaniah chapter 1, it talks about the way in which the Day of the Eternal was going to be brought upon the nation. Then in chapter 2 ...

***Zephaniah 2: 1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation,
2 Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the LORD'S fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD'S anger comes upon you!
3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD'S anger.***

Zephaniah goes on to talk about the other nations of the earth that are going to be involved at this point in time. The clear intent of Scripture is that when it talks of the earth, it is talking of this globe: terra firma! This globe that circulates as part of a solar system, part of a planetary system, part of a galaxy: not just a little bit of LAND.

The meek are to inherit the WHOLE earth. Paul anticipated the time of this event when he talked to the Romans about the present state of this earth.

***Romans 8: 19 (New Revised Standard Version) For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;
20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;
23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.***

Paul talked about the children of God inheriting this whole creation; a creation which is looking forward in anticipation to that event.

What is this condition of meekness, which, by deduction, will allow the children of God to inherit the earth; to take over the rulership and control of this earth, to deliver it from the bondage that it presently encounters?

When we use the term 'meekness', what do we think of? We tend to think in terms of PERSONALITY: someone who is somewhat compliant; who is not going to cause a fuss; who will do what you say. In Lexicons, and various language tools, so often the concept of meekness is expressed in that way: as gentleness, humility, and compliance.

But Jesus Christ had already addressed 'the poor in spirit'. Does the concept of meekness convey something MORE than what translators normally think of? It is interesting to take a concordance and the King James version of the Bible, and look at the use of the term 'meek' or 'meekness'. You will find many of the modern translations don't use that term. They tend to use 'humility' or 'gentleness'. So the concept of meekness is LOST, because they have difficulty understanding it.

I would like to convey to you that there is a DISTINCT MEANING to meekness. Oftentimes we try and define it by what it is not. In the past, as we have groped to try and find an appropriate definition for 'meekness', we have said that it is 'not weakness'. But in so doing, we are using a physical definition to define something that is spiritual. Whenever you try and use a physical definition to define something that is spiritual, it ends up being somewhat INADEQUATE. It doesn't really convey the full picture that God desires us to understand.

We can ask ourselves what is it about meekness that enables a person to be given rulership as a child of God, as a member of the God family? We could start by looking at people who are defined as being meek.

Numbers 12: 3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

This is a rather laudatory statement to make! Moses will be given the right to inherit the earth, because God saw him as being meek. One would expect to find that same quality in Jesus Christ. He told the people of His day:

***Matthew 11: 28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.***

The King James Version doesn't say 'gentle and lowly'. It states:

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.

The Greek word is exactly the same Greek word that it used in Matthew 5:5. Jesus Christ described Himself as being meek and lowly in heart.

A little later on, in Matthew 21, we find Jesus Christ returning to Jerusalem for His final Passover, and crucifixion. This was the occasion when He sent the disciples to get the colt, the donkey, to bring it to Him, and He rode upon it into the city.

***Matthew 21: 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet (quoting from the prophet Zechariah), saying:
5 (KJV) 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 (a donkey).***

Jesus Christ is described as being meek. We have seen two great examples, but without doing a study of their lives we have not yet DEFINED what the condition of meekness amounts to. What is it? How can we understand it?

The apostle Paul and some of the other apostles referred to it. Oftentimes we find it associated with the concepts of gentleness and humility. They go hand in glove. Oftentimes the translators changed the word and used 'poor in spirit', 'humble' or 'gentle'. In the process, they missed the point.

Paul, in writing to the Church in Corinth, addressed some of the problems that they faced. He asked them a question: "How would you like me to come?" He was talking about the way the Church had allowed itself to become puffed up, inflated with its own self importance.

1 Corinthians 4: 21 (KJV) What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?

He gave them an option. "I can come with a big stick, and beat you into shape, or you can take care of the problem yourself, and I can come in the spirit of love and of meekness". The concept of meekness is coupled together with love. It is a spiritual quality.

A little later, in the second epistle to the Church in Corinth, Paul again used this expression. On this occasion, the New King James Version maintains the intent of the Greek word:

2 Corinthians 10: 1 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ ...

Here we find the concept of meekness not necessarily being coupled with love, but with gentleness. The translators could not state "*the gentleness and gentleness of Christ*"! They had to leave it as "*the meekness and gentleness of Christ*".

1 ... who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

He begged that they RESPOND to the instruction that he was giving to them.

He spoke to the Ephesians as well:

Ephesians 4: 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Consider what you have been called to! Consider what it is all about. Paul goes on to talk about some of the ways in which we can walk worthy of the calling. What are some of the ways that show we are walking worthily of the calling which God has given to us?

2 (KJV) With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Meekness is coupled with lowliness, longsuffering and forbearance in love. A parallel Scripture to this is in Colossians chapter 3:

Colossians 3: 12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

When speaking to the Galatians about the fruits of the Spirit, the apostle Paul also listed meekness as being a fruit of God's Spirit.

Looking at these scriptures, we can see the way in which meekness is coupled. It is very easy for us to realise that meekness has something to do with an OUTGOING ATTITUDE towards OTHERS. It is clearly not a self-centred characteristic. It is not an inward characteristic. It has something to do with the way in which we RELATE to another. It has, in fact, to do with relationships. In part, it DEFINES a relationship. A relationship with whom?

James talks a lot about faith. He also talks about wisdom.

James 1: 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

James also talks about patience and meekness, in a very interesting manner.

James 5: 19 (NRSV) You must understand this, my beloved ...

You must understand this is what is required of each of us as Christians ...

***19... let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;
20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.***

We are to seek the righteousness of God.

21 (NRSV) Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

That is an interesting coupling! On the one hand we are to get rid of something, and on the other hand we are to receive something with meekness, which can enable us to save our souls. We are to receive, welcome, with meekness, the implanted word, the engrafted word. In using that expression, James is using and building on the concept and the analogy which Jesus Christ gave, of being the true vine, and how a branch can be grafted into the true vine.

The apostle Paul used a different plant. He used an olive tree for the same concept, that we are to be linked in to something that is of God. We are to be engrafted, or implanted, into it.

We might talk about the way in which God calls us. He gives us an opportunity whereby the spirit that is within us, can be tuned out of this world, and tuned in to the Spirit of God. We can start to receive, and our mind can start to understand, the things that be of God.

That process of RECEIVING THE ENGRAFTED WORD is one which is characterised by MEEKNESS. The end result is that you can be saved. You can become part of the Family of God.

This concept of a relationship, is a relationship with God. It defines a relationship that we should have with God, through His Word. It is interesting that if we look at the concept of meekness, it is also coupled to a defensive mechanism that God provides us with. It is coupled to the defense of our mind against Satan.

Galatians 6: 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

If we are helping another person overcome a problem, a sin, we have to do it in the spirit of meekness, so that we don't get caught up in it. This is the approach we have to have. The apostle Paul told Timothy the same thing:

2 Timothy 2: 24 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,

The word that is normally translated 'meek' has not been used yet. A servant of the Lord has to be gentle. He has to be able to teach. He has to have patience.

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

So, in instructing those who oppose themselves, Paul says it has to be in a spirit of meekness.

James talks about the concept of meekness again.

James 4: 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: (quoting from Proverbs) "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

In the Hebrew, the word which is translated 'humble' is 'meek'. It is exactly the sort of person that Moses was. It is the same quality that is being referred to.

Proverbs 3:34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

The translators didn't translate things consistently. It is the same word, the same form that is used in terms of Moses: meek.

James gives a description of how we can be meek:

James 4: 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

He talks of submitting yourselves to God. What aspect of God? The Word of God, because, as James has already told us, it is with meekness that we are to receive the engrafted Word of God. The Word of God is the thing which is supposed to be growing and developing within us, transforming our lives. I know it takes time. It takes too much time!

7 ... Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Lament (be afflicted) and mourn ...

What is James talking about? He is talking about fasting, afflicting our physical body so we can learn a spiritual lesson, so we can build a spiritual relationship with our Creator.

9 ... (be afflicted) and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom (heaviness).

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Make yourself meek in the sight of the Eternal, and He will lift you up. He will take care of those things. It doesn't mean to say we'll never laugh again. God takes care of that. We can laugh for the right reasons.

There are many other Scriptures we could look at, but let us have a look at the relevance of meekness to US today. I would contend that we live in a day and age in which THE NEED FOR MEEKNESS IS UNPARALLELED. We live in a day of multiple opinions. There is a freedom in society today to have opinions, that perhaps is unparalleled, without equal, in many ways.

In the late 1940s when God's Church was established in this area of the world, what was society like? The second World War had just finished. Sons of fathers who had fought in Europe in the first World War, had returned home. In one way, all the world had known for the past 40 - 50 years had been war, in one theatre or another.

But there was no peace -- because at the time the Church was established in this area, what was happening? There was conflict in the Middle East with the establishment of the State of Israel. The Cold War had started in Europe. There was a Soviet Blockade of Berlin.

If those things in themselves weren't enough, Korea was about to erupt into yet another theatre of war. A state of unease existed upon the earth. There was no peace in any way whatsoever. All of our fathers at that time underwent national service, or conscription, unless there was some good reason that they were not called upon to serve.

For everything a person might like to say about national service and the military, it has a means of dulling human relationships, because the ultimate intention of the military is to turn a man into a fighting machine, a maiming machine, a killing machine. It doesn't matter how far detached you can be in it, your ability to relate to other people is injured, impaired, as a result.

How does the military do that? Through control. As a society, the western world was very much a controlling society. Militaristic control was established through a very clear chain of command. People understood what authority was. People were told to do something and away they went, and did it. That element of control in society started to disappear in the 1950s and especially during the 1960s with the Vietnam situation.

We live in a society today in which that element of control is SELDOM present. It is the EXCEPTION rather than the rule. There is UNLIMITED FREEDOM! In many ways, that can be good, IF we can use the freedom wisely.

The churches at large have experienced this change. Diversity exists within the Catholic Church today in a way in which previous generations would never have considered it. The Catholic Church is a very different church today than it was at the end of the second World War. They are not able to exercise the same level of control over the faithful that they did then.

All church groups have experienced the same impact. If you look at the whole aspect of religion, you find diminution of the people attending the established churches, and you find the rise in the prevalence of non-traditional churches, where people can maybe 'feel good'. They can 'do their own thing'. In many cases they can have their own opinions. They are happy to do what makes them feel good. *"It's me and God, and that's all that matters."* Recently I was talking to someone who I baptised many many years ago. That was what this person said: *"It's just me and God now. I can do anything I like"*.

That is a very common attitude in the world today. We, within the Church, have experienced this change, amongst people who see themselves as the people of God. People have all sorts of opinions.

I am not saying that people NEVER had opinions. I am not that naïve! In society in years gone by, people held to opinions, but because of authority in society, they bit their tongue. They did not want to be labelled as being a red-under-the-bed, as in the 1950s. People did not want to be labelled as being red. They said *"We would rather be dead than red!"*. People had opinions, but they preferred to keep them to themselves. Once those controls came off, people allowed their opinions to arise and come to the fore.

Over the past few years, each and every one of us have seen many, many people come out with different opinions; various ideas of how they read the Scriptures; what they should do. The other day somebody gave me a 6 - 7 month old magazine. I looked through it, and couldn't believe the NUMBER of places that people were now keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. These people all used to be part of the one Church. Now there seems to be a church to suit anybody's needs! *"Whatever you want, whatever your opinion is, there is a Church of God to suit your need. If you can't find one, you can start one!"* It is an unbelievable situation.

Where does this lead us in terms of meekness? I would like to suggest to you a TEST for meekness. The Bible provides some insights for us so we can know whether or not we are meek.

In the book of Hebrews, the apostle Paul talks about correction, about how we as human beings fall so far short of the example Jesus Christ set for us. Jesus Christ was meek. You and I stumble upon our way to seek that quality in our lives.

Hebrews 12: 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Things don't all go our way in life! It doesn't work out the way we would like it to. There are setbacks. There are problems. There is adversity.

4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

I don't think there is any one of us who has not been down that path, many times. God has allowed some correction to come along to help us straighten out our lives. Paul develops that concept:

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful (grievous);

The trials we go through, as God works with our lives, can sometimes be very grievous. We wonder when it is going to end. But once we are through it, once God has given us relief, or we have overcome that particular problem ...

11 ... nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The end result of God's working with us, is to produce a sense of peace and righteousness within us. There

is nothing combative. It is not an aspect of wanting to go out and get level with the world for what it has done to you. Oftentimes we find ourselves with those emotions as we are going through the chastening. As Paul said, no chastening for the present is joyful. We may want to do everything we can in terms of our defence. There may be all sorts of people we would like to settle the score with, or whatever. But the end result is something different. The end result is the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

What are we talking about? We are talking about a relationship with one another. We are talking about a relationship with God. We are talking about the state of mind of an individual, in which they are NOT being combative, or hostile towards others. They are not even being divisive in any shape or form. That is one of the ways in which God works with us.

Often I see people who THINK God is working with them, yet the end result is divisive. It is anything BUT the peaceable fruit of righteousness! Anything but! It becomes self opinionated. It becomes self inflated, and yet another "church of God" exists (in name).

It is not just through trials that God will deal with us. Oftentimes people feel God has revealed something to them, and this becomes very important to them. It is interesting though, as we read in James 1:21 how we were to receive with MEEKNESS the engrafted word which is able to save our souls. If it really is the engrafted Word of God, then it ought to be able to save other people's souls too!

James 3: 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.

On this occasion, meekness is coupled with wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.

That combative, divisive nature is not of God. That is not the meekness coupled with wisdom that is talked about in verse 13.

***15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.
16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.***

You can ask yourself, what is it that associates and surrounds the opinions that some people come to? You and I are free to have opinions. We should ask ourselves "*What do these opinions do? Do they end up producing bitter envy or self seeking in my heart? Do they produce confusion and other evil things?*". If they do, that is not the wisdom that God is talking about! That is not the 'meekness with wisdom' that God seeks for us.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

In other words, the SELF is not part of the picture! "*What God has revealed to me*" is not the big thing. The 'me' has to be out of the picture altogether.

18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Once again we are back to meekness having an end result of the fruit of righteousness, being coupled with peace.

We might ask ourselves, WHY do these go together? Why is meekness so important in being able to combat Satan? As we have already said, meekness defines the relationship we have with our Father. Let us go back to Jesus Christ and Moses. Let us look at one example from each of their lives, which highlights this aspect of meekness.

Let's start with the example of Jesus Christ. He had fed a multitude of 5,000 people. People came looking for what He had to offer. Like normal human beings, they were looking for the wrong thing. They were looking for ANOTHER FREE LUNCH, rather than eternal life! They saw Jesus as a miracle worker, and that was it. The concept that there was something He was teaching, that they needed to bring their lives in harmony with, never entered the picture for them. Jesus Christ told them:

John 6: 38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus Christ came, not to do His own will, but the will of Him who sent Him! I would like to suggest to you that meekness is not DEFINED by gentleness, humility or poor in spirit, although they may be PART of it.

Meekness is ultimately defined by the fact that you or I are prepared to put ourselves totally, completely and unreservedly, under the will of God! Every opinion that we might have, every thought that we might have, is brought under the spotlight of the Word of God, to see whether it is in harmony with it. That is what Paul told the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 10: 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Jesus Christ said *"I have come to do My Father's will. That is what My whole being is all about"*.

In John 17, where it records Jesus Christ praying just before He went out to be sacrificed as our Passover ...

***John 17: 1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said:
"Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,
2 "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.
3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (I have done it. I have accomplished that.)***

Previously in His ministry, Jesus told the people of His day a very important truism. It is recorded for us. Just as Jesus Christ was involved in doing the work of His Father, so YOU AND I have to be. Just as that was the reason for His existence, it has to be the reason for OUR existence too!

Matthew 7: 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

I would like to suggest to you that meekness is defined by the way in which we seek to do the will of our Father in heaven. I hope it is a very simple step from there, as to why the meek inherit the earth!

God has already given the control of the earth to one being who REFUSED to seek to do the will of his Creator in heaven. God is NEVER going to entrust the rule of this earth, or His creation, to any other being, other than a being that is TOTALLY COMMITTED to seeking the will of the Father in heaven.

That is why John, in Revelation 5, talks about how we will be kings and priests and we will rule with Christ. Why will we rule with Christ? Because Christ has shown unequivocally that He is prepared to live by the will of His Father, even to the death of the cross.

That is a challenge for each and every one of us. It is a challenge for me. It is a challenge for you. Jesus Christ was meek because He was prepared to live by that standard. Am I meek? That's the question I have to ask myself. That's the question I have to search my soul about, because if I am not, I will never have a part in inheriting the earth. God will not entrust it to me.

What about Moses? He was defined as being meek above all other men. Let's look and see what Moses was like, and see how the same holds true there. Moses had been with God in the mountain, and had come down to see the apostasy of the people.

Exodus 33: 7 Moses took his tent and pitched it outside the camp, far from the camp, and called it the tabernacle of meeting ...

The tabernacle had not yet been built. He used his own tent as a tabernacle.

7 ... And it came to pass that everyone who sought the LORD went out to the tabernacle of meeting which was outside the camp.

8 So it was, whenever Moses went out to the tabernacle, that all the people rose, and each man stood at his tent door and watched Moses until he had gone into the tabernacle.

God came and talked with Moses on those occasions.

10 All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the tabernacle door, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man in his tent door.

11 So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

I ask myself, if I were in Moses' shoes, and God came to MY house and spoke to me like that, what sort of person would I be? I hate to think! I think it would go to my head. I think I would become puffed up and inflated. I would think that I am sufficient for anything that could come along, that I am up to take on all circumstances.

Was that the attitude of Moses? No. He was a person who had been speaking face to face with the God of the whole earth, the Creator of everything. He had been communicating with Him. What was Moses attitude?

12 Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people.' ...

Moses is referring to something God has been talking about; the conversation that has been going on. The Eternal has been instructing Moses as to what his responsibilities are to these people.

12 ... But You have not let me know whom You will send with me ...

Moses didn't have a swollen head! Moses realised he wasn't up to it by himself.

12 ... Yet You have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found grace in My sight.'

13 "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people."

Moses was saying "God, I know they are not my people. They are Your people".

14 And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

God responded: "Moses, I am going to go with you, and I am going to tell you how it is to be done."

Do you see the relationship that existed between Moses and the Eternal? Moses did not want to do it 'his way'. He wanted to do things God's way, and ONLY God's way. He realised the job could not be done any other way. **That is one of the reasons that God describes Moses as being meek above all other men of the earth.**

Where does it leave us in terms of meekness? Let us establish these points:

Meekness defines a RELATIONSHIP with God and with His Son, Jesus Christ. It is a relationship upon which we rely upon THEM, rather than upon our own instincts, our own thoughts. It is a relationship in which God has defined the qualities and the fruits. I mentioned to you my friend, who said "*It's just God and me.*" Every time I hear that, I know who defined the relationship. It is the self, not 'God'.

Meekness is a relationship in which God defines the parameters. It is not left to you and me. You might say the concept of humility, the willingness to accept those parameters are very much a part of meekness, but it is MORE than just being humble. People can have a FALSE humility.

It is also a relationship of trust and confidence, in which God is willing to entrust rulership over His creation for all eternity, knowing that His children will do what He desires. There will be no repeating of Satan's rebellion against the Father. Above all else, it is a relationship with God that ends up being reflected in our relationships with one another, so that peace and righteousness exist. It produces those fruits, to the honour and glory of God's name.

The fruits of God's Spirit underpin those relationships. The end result of having that quality, of having that relationship, is that you and I can INHERIT ALL THINGS!

*...Peter Nathan
20 Jan 2001*

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