

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 6, 2017

This Week's Focus: When we understand Jesus' gentleness and humility, realize our security in the gospel, and place our faith and confidence in Christ, we will be able to weather the storms of life with a meek and gentle spirit.

This Week's Text: Galatians 5:22-23; Isaiah 40:10-11, 25-26; Matthew 11:28-30

"It is God's making Himself little, which is the cause of our being made great. We are so little that if God should manifest His greatness without condescension, we should be trampled under His feet; but God, who must stoop to view the skies and bow to see what angels do, bends His eyes yet lower and looks to the lowly and contrite, and makes them great." Charles Spurgeon

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What is the fruit of the Spirit? Are the characteristics of the fruit simply personality traits/temperament? How is gentleness (and all of the characteristics of the Fruit of the Spirit) produced and cultivated in the life of the believer?
- What is gentleness/meekness? Before hearing the sermon, how did you understand gentleness? Why is this characteristic often misunderstood, and why is it so sorely lacking in our contemporary culture? How can we make sure that we are being shaped by God, the Holy Spirit, and Scripture rather than by our culture?
- Where do we see evidence of gentleness in God's character? (Isaiah 40:10-11, 15, 25-26; Psalm 18:35)
- Discuss how the incarnation (God's coming to earth) and the gospel (Jesus' atoning work on the cross) is the greatest display of God's gentleness. (Philippians 2:6-8)
- Read Matthew 11:28-30. What is Jesus' invitation to us? What burdens are you carrying that Jesus is asking you to relinquish to him (guilt, sin, self-justifying toil)? What aspects of your life do you need to entrust into the hands of the almighty, sovereign, loving, and gentle Jesus Christ?

- What does Jesus mean by his statement, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"? (Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:11) How is this true for the present and for the future (eschatological)?
- Discuss the following attributes of the meek person as taught in Psalm 37:3-11.
 - Meek people have a deep reliance and trust in God.
 - Meek people commit themselves to God who is able and willing to sustain, guide, and protect them.
 - Meek people are quiet and still before the Lord as they wait patiently for him to work in their lives.
 - Meek people don't fret over wickedness in the world, but rely on, rest in, and are satisfied in God.