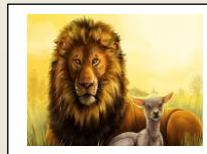

PASTOR'S NOTES – 1. 17. 2016

The Mission of Meekness

Uncommon Response to Injury

MATTHEW 5:38-48



“...If our enemy cannot put up with us any longer and takes to cursing us, our immediate reaction must be to lift up our hands and bless him.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

MEEKNESS: *It cannot just be academic – it is the way of Jesus and it must be the way of His disciples. If we are truly IN Christ, then this must be who we strive to become. Philippians 2:3-8*

Look at the lives of the martyrs – is there anyone so close to the heart of Christ than these? Holding on to hurts only dampens our testimony and makes ineffective our ministry to our family, to our church and to our world.

*Though the concern for our lives is great, the building of the Kingdom must be greater. In this we can find the empowerment in Christ to live **UNCOMMONLY**.*

*While the hurts and injuries of our PAST may be deep and real and terribly painful, the healing and freedom of our PRESENT is **OVERWHELMINGLY BETTER IN CHRIST**.*

FREEDOM AND HEALING ARE WHAT WE FORFEIT WHEN WE HOLD ON TO BITTERNESS.

Many know what is right – they see the truth of Christ’s MEEKNESS and how it is to play out in our lives - but refuse to lay down the rights of OWNERSHIP and, therefore, never enter into the healing and freedom that God intends.

WE CAN NEVER HEAL UNTIL WE OBEY.

Can we see yet how the submission to Christ’s Truth is obedience and is the first step of MEEKNESS? The first step of healing? The first step of growth? The first step of effective ministry?

THERE CAN BE NO SPIRITUAL GROWTH, NO EMOTIONAL OR SPIRITUAL HEALING, AND NO EFFECTIVE MINISTRY UNTIL WE WALK IN OBEDIENT, SUBMISSIVE MEEKNESS BEFORE GOD.

**LOOKING AT JESUS’ DIRECTIONAL ILLUSTRATIONS IN MATT. 5
SEE THE ACT OF SUBMISSION AND MEEKNESS –**

TURN TO HIM THE OTHER CHEEK... v.39

LET HIM HAVE YOUR CLOAK AS WELL...v.40

GO WITH HIM TWO MILES...v. 41

GIVE TO THE ONE WHO BEGS OR BORROWS...v.42

LOVE THOSE WHO WOULD DESIRE YOUR HARM...v.44

GREET THE OUTSIDERS...v. 47

BE PERFECT AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT... v. 48

GROWTH: A mature Christ-like response to offense and injury is not seeded in self-centeredness, church-centeredness or family-centeredness. Rather, Christ’s response is Kingdom-centered and, therefore, redemptive and reconciliatory in nature.

IF I CANNOT BE OFFENDED, THEN THERE IS NO REASON FOR A HARSH OR CRITICAL, PRIDE-FILLED RESPONSE.

**IN THE PAIN, I LOOK FOR DEEPER WAYS
TO SERVE THE INFLECTOR OF MY PAIN.**

HEALING: MEEKNESS brings healing because with Christ in me (the Hope of Glory) I have been empowered to love my offender and to be renewed by His Spirit. MEEKNESS brings healing to you (my offender) because I am allowing God’s Spirit to bring about reconciliation and reunification of our hearts and spirits, rather than demanding my own selfish retribution. MEEKNESS brings healing to me because it purifies and unclogs within me the conduit of faith, love, integrity, generosity and spiritual giftedness.

MULTIPLYING: A culture of MEEKNESS within my home and within our church breeds a glistening light of Hope in Christ, uncommon to most and appealing to many lost.

It is by His Kindness (gentleness, meekness) that He drew us to repentance (Rom. 2:3, 4).

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. WHAT NOW IS YOUR BEST UNDERSTANDING OR DEFINITION OF MEEKNESS?

2. IN GENERAL, WHAT ROLE DOES “OWNERSHP” PLAY IN YOUR ABILITY TO FORGIVE?

3. WHAT HURTS HAVE YOU HELD ONTO WHICH HAVE PREVENTED YOU FROM FORGIVING AND WHICH IN TURN HAVE CAUSED YOU TO BE LESS EFFECTIVE AS A KINGDOM BUILDER IN YOUR RECENT YEARS?
