

your workplace when you go to work? How many people at work? Would you describe his meek? What about your neighborhood? Anybody in your neighborhood? What about your family? anybody in your family? Don't answer this one. Anybody at church? We don't, we don't do Meek very well. And I think part of the reason is because we don't understand Meek. Now meek in the first century, as you saw in the story from Douglas had some different meanings and connotations than it does today. Because words change over time. Right? We know this, the word gay used to mean something else. And now it means something different. And a lot of words have had that happen to them. Okay. And so first thing I want to do today is talk a little bit about what it means to be meek. And what it meant, especially in the first century when they were writing some of this, what it meant to be meek, and how we can look at some Bible examples of how to do that. And for some reason, as I was doing this sermon, lots of movie references came to my head. So I hope you've watched all the same movies I have, it'll make more sense that way. But you know, meekness, like I said, is something we don't do very well. And we often have a negative connotation to it. Remember, Back to the future. I think it's the second one where he comes back and Biff has changed that he's no longer the protagonist, but he's the "Let me buff your truck, Marty!" you know, that little black Toyota four by four that we all wanted in 1980. Right? That was the cool car to have. "I'll put two coats of wax on it, Marty." And we think that's meek. That's That's not meel. Right? That's not meek. It's not a good example. All right.

So let's, let's look at what this word means. And one more thing before we go on..... ever heard somebody say, you know, I have a temper. You know, I've got Irish blood in me. Or I'm passionate. I'm Latino. Don't you know? What we have our passions. Let me be clear, and I don't want to step on anybody's toes unless they need stepping on. Your heritage is not an excuse for bad behavior. Right. "It's okay for me to get mad because I'm Irish." No, it's not! What kind of excuses that right. By the way, I'm not Irish. So no excuse.

Number one thing is your sermon notes. You want to take notes on this.... meekness maintains an even temperament. See, Aristotle define meekness as the mean between two extremes of intense anger, or too little passion. Right, you might be just so angry all the time. Or you might just be apathetic. And meekness is some kind of level grounds kind of balance there in the middle. William Barclay

suggested that the beatitude be translated Blessed is the man who was always angry at the right time, and never angry at the wrong time. Well, what's the right time to be angry? And the answer to that is, is when injustice occurs to other people. When Jesus gets angry, it's because injustice is happening to other people. He does not get angry when injustice happens to him. Right? And so we have to do this, we have to avoid these extremes of severe anger or severe apathy. And sometimes that's really hard for us to do because we're Irish, quote, unquote. And so we say, How do I do that? And the answer is probably you really can't. It's kind of in our nature. And the way that you do that is by asking God to help you do that, and letting the Holy Spirit work through you, amen. For some things that you can do for yourself, or you can work on there's some things that we just kind of really need God for. And I think this is one of the ones that you just really kind of need to depend on God to help you with this.

Number two, so number one is an even temperament. Number two is it developed self control. And this may seem the same, but it's really not. Imagine a wild animal that allows itself to be tamed, a wild horse, that wild stallion, and how majestic they are and the strength they possess. And then they allow themselves to be tamed. And you can put a saddle on him and ride him. Is the horse any less strong because he's tamed? No, he still has his strength. It's just under control. Right? It's under control, and the horse still possesses great power and great strength, but he knows how to control it. Being Meek doesn't mean that you are cowardly. being meek means that you are strong enough to not retaliate when wrongly treated. possessing this great ability, the meek, don't flaunt it, they would rather forgive than accuse. And such self control results in peace with yourself. Right? Because the people who cannot control their anger or their greed, or their lust, or their tongue, or their ambition, are never at peace. Have you noticed that they will be constantly at war with themselves.

Do you guys ever watched the TV show Kung Fu back in the 70s or 80s, with David Carradine. I loved that show. For those of you who didn't. David Carradine played the part of a Shaolin monk who learned all the martial arts and was now wandering around the Old West looking for his brother. And as a Shaolin monk, he was very adept at fighting. But that was something that you only did when you absolutely positively had to, last resort, and never for yourself, only to protect others. And he would encounter different people that needed help. They were

being oppressed, they were being abused, they were in some kind of struggle or whatever. And he would help them and then move on to the next town as he was looking for his brother. And, you know, it was that's a pretty good example of meekness. of somebody that has the strength to do things but chooses to only be involved when others are being harmed, or others are being damaged even. You know, the Bible tells us look out for the orphans and the widows. Why? Because they don't have the strength to do it themselves. And we do.

All right, number three, meekness expresses itself through gentleness. Meekness expresses itself through gentleness. Now, this tells us something about having a happy life and being gentle, being kind. Why is it that the biggest compliment you can give to a man is call him a gentleman ? Why isn't the biggest compliment to call him warrior? Defender of the family or something? You know, guys, we like that right? I'd rather be you know, the hero than a gentleman. But the greatest compliment we can give somebody is to be a gentleman. See, meekness and gentleness are characteristics of a strong person, not a weak person. A weak person spends all their time trying to convince you that they're strong. Like Mikayla [from the children's story] tried to convince everybody that every she was the smartest. Okay? Weak people are always trying to convince you they're strong. Strong people don't have to convince you they're strong.

Last one, number four. Meekness is assured of victory. Jesus said, those who are meek inherit the earth, right? And this truth is in the Bible, I didn't put these verses in your notes. I got four verses here from Psalms, and you may just want to write down the references so you can look them up later. And we'll go through these here kind of quick. Psalms 37:11. And these are all from from King James because King James tends to use the original Meek language versus translating the word into something that we would better understand and today Psalms 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, they shall the light themselves in the abundance of peace. Psalms 22:26 Psalms 22:26 says, The meek shall eat and be satisfied. They shall praise the Lord that seek Him, your heart shall live forever. Psalms 25:9, Psalms 25:9, the meek, He will guide in judgment and the meek, He will teach his way. Last one, Psalms 147:6, Psalms 147:6, the Lord lifted up the meek, he cast the wicked down to the ground, right? It's not just Jesus that says, The meek shall inherit the earth, but it's throughout the Bible.

Okay. So let's look at a couple of Bible examples real quick and our remaining time. And I picked some examples that we all know because I want I didn't want to have to work too much on the stories. I wanted us to concentrate on what's going on behind the story. So the first one of a great example is Abraham. So Abraham is you know, lives down in Egypt way. God says, want you to move kind of towards the Middle East where eventually Israel would be settled. And he and Lot move up there. They grow. And their herdsmen begin battling for land because their herds are so big. And so what does Abraham do? He says, You know what, there's enough land here. One of us live here on the plane, one of us will live here in the hills, and Abraham, lets a Lot pick which one he wants. And it's hard for us to understand this with our mindset today. Because in their world, Abraham would have never let him choose. Abraham was the patriarch, and Abraham would have said, I'm gonna live here, you move over there, and Lot would have done it. Why would have done it? Because that's, that's the way the world worked. That's what happened. But Abraham says no, no, no, you pick which one do you want? We know Lot chooses the plane by Sodom and Gomorrah, he chose poorly. Abraham goes to the hill country and takes that land. The question is why? And the answer is the promise to make Abraham, a great nation and prosperous is to Abraham, not to Lot. Abraham has assurance of victory. Abraham knows that God has promised him what's going to happen. He doesn't need to live in this place or that place to get the promise. It's already been given to him. You understand? When you're meek, you don't have to scrap and fight everything you can get. Because you are assured of victory may not come in this life. It may come in the next. But it's there.

Another person who demonstrates meekness is Moses. Of course, the Bible tells us in Numbers chapter 12, that Moses was very meek, above all the men of the earth. Okay. And we know that Moses goes down into Egypt, tells Pharaoh to let my people go. Gets the people out of Egypt, by the way, what's coming up here in a couple of weeks? Easter, what movie do they always show? Ten Commandments. Love that movie? Right? I try to watch it every year. Man, that's a time commitment to and it's like four hours to watch that thing on TV. But it's a great movie. But I think that movie portrays Moses completely wrong. As great as that movie is. It was shows Moses coming in before Pharaoh, Pharaoh, let my people go or God will smite you. Right? And Moses is this authority. He's this

force. I don't think that's how it went at all. I think Moses kind of crept into the back and said "ah, Pharaoh? I got a message from God. You're not gonna like it." Right? I don't think Moses had that imposing greater-than-life presence. He was meek above all other men on the earth. So we know he takes the Israelites out of sorry..... I hope I didn't ruin the movie for you this year. Just thought of that. It's like Oh, no. It's like spoiler alert. Okay. So he takes, you know, the Israelites out and they're headed into the wilderness. And they go up to Mount Sinai remember the story, right? And Moses is getting the 10 commandments from God, and what are the Israelites doing? Partying right, making a golden calf. Moses is dead. We're just having a good time. And Moses comes down the mountain and sees what happens, and destroys the tablets. And he does something really weird. He grinds up the golden calf and puts it in the water and makes them drink it. Why? Because Moses is demonstrating meekness that gives preference to God. And Moses is not willing to do anything that will consort with evil that will give evil of foothold. He is going to wipe it out every chance he gets. And he had a chance to destroy evil. And he did. Because that's the true sign of meekness that you give preference. to God, and not just, oh, I can control myself. But he was sensitive to the will of God, not the will of the people. And Moses was unwilling to yield the principle of righteousness, or to compromise with evil. And he demonstrates that you can be meek, and still stand firm in what you believe in.

Another example is David. Of course, we know David had his issues and his troubles. But David is anointed king by Samuel. And when you think of the great prophets in the world, where does Samuel rank? Like, maybe one or two, right, you know, you were talking about maybe the GOAT here of all the prophets. Okay, but for those of you don't know, GOAT is Greatest Of All Time. Maybe it'd be a sports fan to get that I'm not sure... but Samuel maybe Samuel, Elijah, one of those twos kind of battling for number one, right? So Samuel has anointed David the next king. And the Bible says, The Lord left Saul. And David is now the next king. Of course, this creates all kinds of strife. And Saul chases David. And several times, David has the opportunity to end Saul. And he never does. Why not? God's already promised that you're going to be the next king. We'll just help the promise along. Somebody is "going no, don't do that." Why not? David has already been assured of what's going to happen, right? David knew that God had promised him the kingdom and that God would deliver the kingdom when God

was good and ready to deliver the kingdom, man. And though he suffered many injustices at the hand of Saul, David was unwilling to take revenge. He shows great self control, because, you know, some of us might have gone, I'm right here. He's right there, I got a sword, oh, boy. That would be hard to stop.

There's New Testament examples, too. One of them would be the disciples, I think. But primarily after Jesus has been crucified, resurrected and gone to heaven. I think before that, we don't see a lot of meekness in them. But after that we do, especially of Apostle Paul, he's traveling around, we see quite a bit of meekness in him. But you know, the, the best example of in the New Testament, of course, is Jesus. And Jesus actually says that "I am meek and lowly in heart." And when you know, one thing we should talk about is when Jesus is going through this list of, of the Beatitudes, and telling us these eight things. This is not just, "oh, by the way, folks did you happen to know? Look at that group of people over there. And you know, they're Meek until they get this. And look at that group of people over there. They're poor in spirit, they get.... look at that group over there, they get...." No what he's doing is he's telling you, these are eight attributes that you should have in your life. This is, you know, like the 10 commandments. This is like the 8 commandments for your life. This is like the 8 commandments for your character. What kind of person do you want to be? And if I had walked up to you before the service and said, Do you want to be meek, most of us probably would have said, I'm not sure. Maybe not. Because in that, in our minds, meekness has a bad connotation. But we need to think about it from the way Jesus in the first century, people were thinking about it, where meekness is self control. Meekness is being assured, being even tempered. And Jesus says, I am me. I don't know about you, but I want to be like Jesus, Amen.

So how do we do that? How do we justify that Jesus says he's meek, and then he picks up a whip and runs people out of the temple? Doesn't seem so meek. But again, what is he angry at? What they've done to him? No, What they're doing to the other people. The travelers that are coming to the temple and what they are doing to God. Because he is like Moses, he is not willing to compromise with any evil, right? And he is just willing to chase them out and do what he needs to do. And Jesus's meekness is towards God. And it's the same Jesus that kneels in the garden of the Gethsemane and says, "Not my will, but Your will be done." And

that's hard to do sometimes. Jesus was unwilling to yield a principle of righteousness, or to compromise with evil.

And you might be saying, well, meekness is really hard to develop. Yeah, it is. It actually is. You can't wake up in the morning. Today, I'm going to be meek. I don't think that'll work. And I'm not even sure that God intended for that to work. We get to become meek by turning ourselves over to God, by turning our nature over to God. Say "let your Holy Spirit work in me, make me more like you." That's how you get to be meek. There's not like some exercise, you can take home. If I do 50 reps of this, I'll be meek. No. Let the Holy Spirit work in your life.

So the question I have today, in our reflection, is, have you been born again? And have you allowed the Holy Spirit to fill you now? I didn't ask if you have been baptized, because some of us maybe have been baptized. But we haven't been born again. Right? I want to be clear there. I mean, born again, is really saying, Lord, I've tried to run my life didn't work. Let's try it your way. And you're all in. Right? You're not holding back this little part. You're all in. Have you done that?

The challenge is, turn it over to God and allow him to make you meek. This is the easiest challenge. And the hardest challenge I think we've ever given you since we started doing this. Because you don't have to do anything. Except turn it over to God, which is kind of hard. But then, that's what allows you to be meek.

Alright, so we have a better understanding of meekness. Yes. All right, let's bow our heads. Heavenly Father, thank you so much. As you give us these lessons, and how we should live our lives, and these great examples that give us ideas of how we're supposed to behave, and the way we're supposed to interact and how we're supposed to become more like you, Lord. Help us to have the courage to turn it over to you and say, Lord, make me meek. Like you. It can be the hardest thing we've done, to give up control of our lives to you. The Lord we know good and well that our lives come just from a blessing from you. And thank you so much for that. We ask that you be with us, Lord, help us to have the courage to stand up for others, to not to compromise with evil, and to put ourselves aside in Jesus name, Amen.