

“Like Jesus: The Gospel of Gentleness” | Craig Chapman | November 15, 2020

**Isaiah 42:1-9** “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.” 5 This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. 8 “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. 9 See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

**Galatians 5:16, 22-25** But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ... 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

**John 8:3-11** The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” 11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

**Introduction**

The fruits of the Spirit sermon series has featured love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and this week we come to gentleness. Gentleness is not weakness but it is the same greek word as used in the Sermon on the Mount for meekness. (Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.) Gentleness in our passage means strength or power under control for the benefit of others and it requires or flows from humility, not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less. If used correctly, it can be a sheaved sword used only at the right time.

**Background**

- 1) **A Gentleness Shortage** - in our relationships and personal interactions, gentleness is a sorely needed ingredient especially in our racially-divided society. Given our gentleness shortage, we need to turn to the gentle servant.
- 2) **The Gentle Servant** - Our Old Testament passage, Isaiah 42, is the first of four servant songs and points to Jesus as the servant. Jesus is the chosen servant, a king who uses his power to make things right. His power is under control for the bruised and the barely flickering in order to heal not to break. The paradox is gentle royal power. the results of a king without the methods of a king. This is the gospel of gentleness.  
In our gospel passage, woman in John 8 is caught in the act of adultery. The Old Testament punishment for this is death but Jesus responds with gentleness. v.11-”Go and sin no more.” Jesus maintains the morality of the law but not its penalty. In the new covenant, Jesus comes to absorb the penalty for us.
- 3) **Gentle Service** - Proverbs 15 - a gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger. Christians are to respond in gentleness as we have received gentleness from Jesus. If you know and embrace the gentle savior, you will look for ways to give it to others.

**Discuss**

- 1) What is gentleness?
- 2) Do we treat those closest to us with gentleness? Spouse, family, children.
- 3) Are we respectfully assuming the best in the way we think about and treat others?

**Conclusion/Application**

All Saints offers many ways to gently serve others through its partner ministries including our ESL ministry with meals, learning pods, prayer, and English classes.. Contact Matt or Craig Chapman for more information.

Christ offers gentleness for you so that you can share it with others. Look for ways this week to give gentleness to others.

