

Sunday Centerpoint

Key Takeaway:

1. Meekness is power under control. The word Jesus used for "meek" in the Beatitudes describes a wild stallion that has been tamed for battle -- raw power that is now directed and controlled. Meekness is not the absence of strength but the surrender of self-reliance.
2. When you fight for yourself, you fight alone. But when you lower your defenses, God becomes your defender. Moses understood this truth. Rather than retaliating against Miriam and Aaron, he remained silent and trusted God to handle the situation.
3. Meekness is stepping down so that God can step in. When we rush to defend ourselves, we are essentially telling God we do not trust Him to handle things. Meekness is an act of faith.
4. True meekness goes further than silence -- it prays for accusers. What set Moses apart as the meekest man on earth was not just that he stayed quiet, but that he actively interceded for the very people who had attacked him.
5. Poor in spirit is vertical humility before God. Meekness is horizontal humility before others. These two qualities work together. Seeing God accurately leads to seeing ourselves accurately, which then shapes how we treat the people around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Numbers 12:1-13. What do you notice about how Moses responds throughout this passage? What would you have been tempted to do in his position?
2. The sermon described meekness as "horizontal humility" -- lowering our defenses before others -- in contrast to "poor in spirit," which is lowering ourselves before God. How do these two qualities connect? Can you have one without the other?
3. Read Matthew 26:57-64. Jesus was surrounded by false testimony and chose to remain silent. What do you think that silence communicated to the council? What did it communicate to God?
4. Jesus referenced Psalm 110 before the council, essentially saying He did not need to bow to their false authority because He already knew how everything would end. How does knowing the ultimate outcome -- that God wins, and that those who belong to Him share in that inheritance -- change the way we handle opposition and criticism today?
5. The sermon made the statement: "When we choose to defend ourselves, we are saying, God, I don't trust that you can defend me." Do you agree with that? Are there situations where defending yourself is appropriate, and if so, how do you discern the difference?
6. Moses did not just remain silent -- he prayed for Miriam and Aaron after God judged them. Jason shared that praying for someone who has hurt you changes the way you see them and can dissolve resentment over time. Has anyone in the group experienced this? What happened?
7. The sermon noted that when we become more like Jesus in our meekness, others will often mistake that for weakness and try to take advantage of us. How do you hold onto meekness when it seems to be inviting more mistreatment rather than less?

Practical Applications:

1. Pray for your critics this week.
2. Examine your own criticism.
3. Practice the pause before defending yourself.
4. Memorize or meditate on one verse this week.

