

Meekness: A Characteristical Trait That God Loves

Num 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

Num 12:2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard *it*.

Num 12:3 (Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)

Meekness, I'm afraid, has been looked at as a sort of weakness and not something that is essential to our walk with God. It is perhaps not even really considered as something that seems really worthy of trying to attain or incorporate into our lives. The word *meek* means poor, humble, afflicted, meek. (Brown-Driver-Briggs)

One translation says, "Now the man Moses was more gentle than any other man on earth" (Numbers 12:3 BBE). Another translation says, "(Moses was a humble man, more humble than anyone else on earth)" (Numbers 12:3 GNB).

Meekness is vital. We need more meek people among us. Psalms 22:26 says, "The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever." Meek people have a tremendous attitude. Those that are not meek are so hard to deal with.

Psalms 25:9 says, "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way." Those that are meek are teachable. Those that are not cannot be guided. Maybe threats will work on those that are not meek, but gentle guidance will not.

If you want to inherit what God has for us, you must have a certain temperament. Not a feigned temperament, not a pretended meekness, but a biblical meekness. Psalms 37:11 says, "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

God can save meek people. Psalms 76:9 says, "When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah." It pays to learn about the blessing of practicing the art of meekness, especially if you want God to help you. Psalms 147:6 says, "The LORD lifeth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground."

Psalms 149:4 says, "For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation." We need meekness in our lives. The meek will be happier people in God. Isaiah 29:19 says, "The meek also shall increase *their* joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."

Numbers 12:3 says, "(Now the man Moses *was* very meek, above all the men which *were* upon the face of the earth.)" Albert Barnes says, "The words are inserted to explain how it was that Moses took no steps to vindicate himself, and why consequently the Lord so promptly intervened." But Adam Clarke says, "How could Moses, who certainly was as humble and modest as he was meek, write this encomium upon himself? I think the word is not rightly understood..."

Obviously, we believe that God is the divine author, and if He wanted Moses to refer to himself as the meekest man, then Moses was simply submitting to the divine author's will. But Adam Clarke contends that Moses would not write this about himself, and that the word translated meekness should actually have been translated *afflicted*, which is part of the range of meaning.

Clarke refers to the episode found in the previous chapter (Numbers 11), as proof to attest to this position. Clarke says, "...in this sense it should be understood here: "Now this man Moses was depressed or afflicted more than any man..."

Clarke continues "And why was he so? Because of the great burden he had to bear in the care and government of this people, and because of their ingratitude and rebellion both against God and himself: of this depression and affliction..."

Numbers 11:1 says, "And *when* the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard *it*; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed *them that were* in the uttermost parts of the camp." Numbers 11:2 says, "And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched."

Moses had to deal with one thing after another. He was under a heavy burden of responsibility. He had to hear the complaints, the crying, and the weeping. Numbers 11:4 says, "And the mixt multitude that *was* among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

Moses indeed was very meek, but he was also afflicted. I wonder if meekness is only truly born and conceived thru the experience of affliction.

Num 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

Num 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

Num 11:12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

Num 11:13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

Num 11:14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because *it is* too heavy for me.

Num 11:15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

God helped Moses with his affliction by giving him the help he needed.

Num 11:16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

Num 11:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which *is* upon thee, and will put *it* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear *it* not thyself alone.

It's a good thing that Moses took his complaint before God. That he was honest enough to say he was afflicted. I think too many people become bitter because of affliction, or give up because of the heavy burdens. But it is important to understand that in this life there will be affliction and there will be heavy burdens to bear. The powerful truth is that God greatly helped Moses and God can also help you.

But, here is one of the conditions... you have to be meek.