



A SERVE DEVOTIONAL

*For the Lord is good
and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues
through all generations.*

Psalm 100:5

Text:

Matthew 5:5

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

Summary:

Blessed are the meek ... It would be unusual to wake up in the morning and think, "meekness is the key to success." We usually think something more along the lines of, "I'm going to crush this day" or on a busy, hard day, "Whatever happens, I'll tough it out." In fact, it's hard to think of meekness as a desirable characteristic at all, because it seems to match a word it rhymes with: weakness. In continuing with his tendency to turn things upside down, though, Jesus is teaching that downward mobility is key for kingdom living.

Personal Quiet Time:

When is the last time you heard the word meek used in a sentence...outside of a church service? I can't remember once. So as I started writing this reflection, I grilled my friends and family, "Really, what does the word meek even mean to us?" The answers were hesitant, unsure kinda like how the word itself feels...it doesn't resonate or bring about strong feelings. You might say the responses were meek.

And yet the more I researched the origins, the references in the Bible, the meaning behind it the more I thought to myself. I want to be meek. How do I become more meek? Put me on the 12-week plan to more meekness in my life! And that's the catch, isn't it? You can't chase joy or hope or humility, just like you can't chase meekness.

One of the references I found is that the Greek origin of meek refers to a warhorse, "praus." Are you as confused as I am at this point? Webster's dictionary has three definitions for meek. The secondary definitions are: "not violent or strong" or "deficient in spirit and courage". Not really sounding like a great horse to be riding on in war to me...

However, the first definition of meek is "enduring injury with patience and without resentment." Now that hits me a little different. It gives me strong feelings of loyalty and commitment and strength. It leads me to believe that being meek and humble is about trust. It's knowing peace in the midst of pain because there is a larger plan in place. There is nothing weak about that!

How did we end up with such conflicting meanings for the same word? The complexity of the world we live in can be overwhelming. Conflict and contradiction seem to be abundant when we desire clarity and control. And yet God calls us to endure injury with patience and without resentment. How will we look to our maker to understand our worth and continue living in this world of contradiction with his peace. Jesus shows us that being meek is being present with our pain. Trusting that our Lord knows and empowers our long-suffering. It takes his warhorse strength.

Reflection Questions:

Reread Matthew 5:5, and spend time reflecting on these questions:

- What does this verse reveal about who God is?
- What are you hearing about who you are?
- How does this impact the way you live into God's story today?

Prayer:

Jesus, Lord of all,

Soften my heart so I become more like you.

Open my eyes so I notice your people.

Give me gentleness so I share your kindness and love.

Build my strength so I find courage in you.

Teach me meekness so I inherit the delight of your story.

Make me your instrument so I join your work on this earth.

Tie my heart to your rule and reign, for the sake of your name.

Amen.