



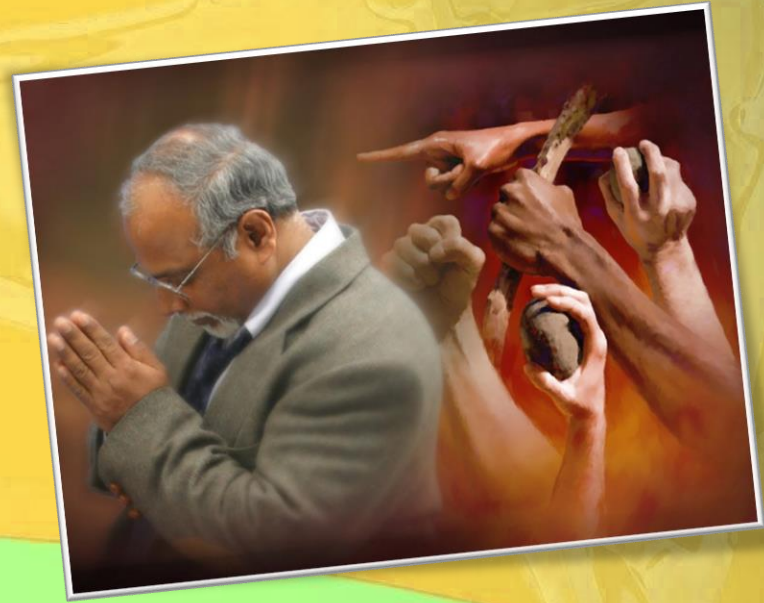
MEEKNESS






IN THE

CRUCIBLE

Meekness is defined as “enduring injury with patience and without resentment.” It’s not an inherently human attribute.

Our sinful nature cannot help but taking revenge when someone offends us. God is powerful enough to transform our hearts and to make us meek people. With His help we can bear any offence and love those who offend us.



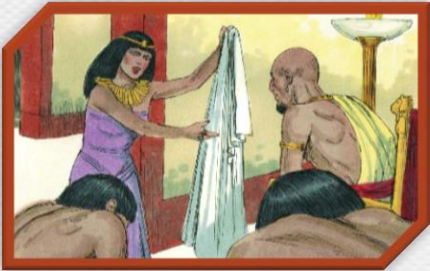
-  **Meekness in the suffering**
-  **Intercessory meekness**
-  **Meekness before our enemies**
-  **Meekness before injustice**
-  **The source of meekness**

MEEKNESS IN THE SUFFERING

"Thus Ezekiel is a sign to you; according to all that he has done you shall do; and when this comes, you shall know that I am the Lord God." (Ezekiel 24:24)

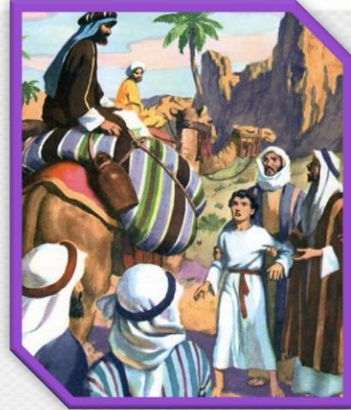
Joseph was the favorite son of his father. However, his life was suddenly turned upside down (Gn. 37:28).

Joseph clung to God in the harsh trials. He humbly worked for his master and meekly endured the false accusation. Eventually, Joseph's broken pieces became the salvation of Israel (Gn. 50:20-21).



Ezekiel's heart was also in pieces after his wife passed away. God asked him to do something unusual in those circumstances: Do not cry (Ez. 24:16-18). Ezekiel's broken pieces became an announcement and an example for the people of Israel (Ez. 24:21-24).

God can use our broken pieces to help other people if we meekly accept our sufferings.



INTERCESSORY MEEKNESS

"Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: 'Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?'" (Exodus 32:11)



Moses is known as the meekest man ever (Nm. 12:3), although he had to endure constant complaints and opposition.

God offered Moses to destroy the people of Israel and to begin a new nation with him. However, Moses interceded on behalf of the whiny people.

He also interceded on behalf of his own sister after being betrayed by her (Nm. 12:13); he also interceded when his relatives tried to usurp the priesthood (Nm. 16:20-22).



Meekness involves offering grace to those who don't deserve it.



MEEKNESS BEFORE OUR ENEMIES

"love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you," (Matthew 5:44)

Why should we love those who have hurt us?

Jesus shared one basic reason: so that we imitate our Father. God is good with His enemies (Mt. 5:45). He loves them because He sees them as candidates for the Kingdom of Heaven, precious pearls of His



When we see our enemies like this, everything changes. We see them as future brothers and sisters whom we can share eternal life with. This way we'll always seek their good.

We're being perfected as the love of God grows in our hearts (Mt. 5:48). This "perfection" is shown by loving others and treating them meekly.



MEEKNESS BEFORE INJUSTICE

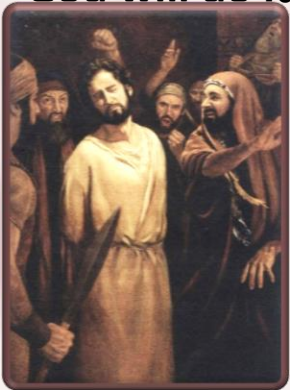
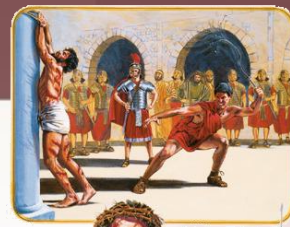
"who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;"
(1 Peter 2:23)

Undoubtedly, Jesus is the greatest example of meekness (Mt. 11:29). Peter explained how He behave so we can learn from His example (1P. 2:23).

Jesus remained silent before the offenses. He didn't rebel against attacks or suffering but gave Himself to God. He knew God is always in control. God will do justice at the right time.

Let's remember the meekness of Jesus when we face unfair situations and anger grows in us. His silence was a powerful testimony.

Remember Paul's advice in Romans 12:17-21. Do not seek revenge, for vengeance is God's. On the contrary, do good to those who do evil.



THE SOURCE OF MEEKNESS

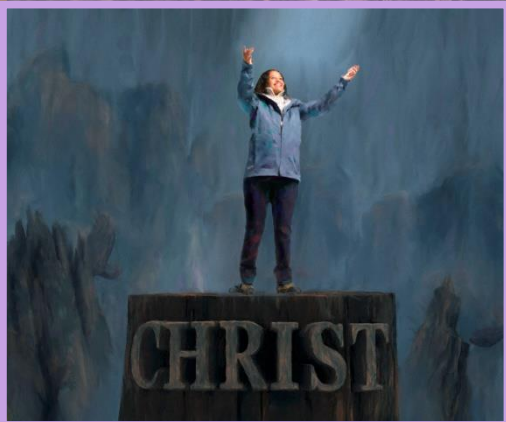
"In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God." (Psalm 62:7)

Meekness is usually seen as a weakness. Meek people are thought to be shy, defenseless, coward. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The meekness of Christians is based on the Rock. They stay firm in the storms of this life. They don't wish harm on their enemies but intercede in their behalf.

They love their families and friends even if they betray them or hurt them. They put the bad circumstances on God's hands.

They know that God is always in control. He's conducting His work for the glory of His name.



“If we possess the humility of our Master, we shall rise above the slights, the rebuffs, the annoyances, to which we are daily exposed, and they will cease to cast a gloom over the spirit. The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control. He who under abuse or cruelty fails to maintain a calm and trustful spirit robs God of His right to reveal in him His own perfection of character. Lowliness of heart is the strength that gives victory to the followers of Christ.”

E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 31, p. 301)