

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE

## Living in Meekness

TEXT: Mt. 5:5

INTRODUCTION:

Review of Meekness:

- Strength under control
- Power in submission
- Never defends self
- Always defends God

Question: How do you live in meekness?

### I. TAKE NO PERSONAL OFFENSE

**Pr. 19:11** The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger,  
And his glory is to overlook a transgression.

#### A. Remember Joseph

After all brothers did, he certainly had cause to be offended. But he took no personal offense. He dealt firmly with them to get them right with God and to Egypt to live, but no thought or intention of vengeance or retribution.

#### B. Remember Jesus

No one was ever more innocent.  
No one ever more wrongly condemned, hurt, offended, wronged.  
Yet He did not strike back or even talk back.

C. People will inevitably offend. You cannot end that. When offended it upsets, hurts, angers, brings out the worst. So control it from the other side. Don't take personal offense. What should you do? Hear it humbly and allow God to give you grace to bear it or respond lovingly to. "The Lord gives grace to the humble."

Natural reaction – get defensive  
God's reaction – get humble, receive grace

I am not saying this is easy. It is not. Even if you have victory, the next time is still a battle.

**It is not easy, but it is the way to abundant life.  
It is the way to the character of Christ.**

**It is the way to abiding joy.**

**D. Don't take up others offenses.**

Hearing that someone was offended and becoming hurt or angry or vengeful over their offense. Dangerous because no grace is given to handle this. This breeds many wounded spirits for there is no way to dispel.

Spat between John and Mary, Connie hears. John repents; Mary forgives; Connie is left bitter.

## **II. RECEIVE CRITICISM TENDERLY**

A. It's easier to condemn self 1000 times than let someone else do it once.

"I'm a terrible preacher."

"He's a terrible preacher."

B. Example – David and Shimei (2 Sam. 16:5-14)

**C. Proper response to criticism**

**1. Cry to the Lord.**

Ex. 14:15 **And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward.**

**2. Don't take offense.**

**3. Ask Him to show any truth in it.**

God often speaks thru our critics, even enemies, as well as friends.

**Commit cause to the Lord "Who judges righteously."**

1 Pet. 1:17 **And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;**

## **III. LEARN DEFERENCE**

**A. Yielding to another's desire**

B. Think of Abraham with Lot

C. Eph. 5:21 **submitting to one another in the fear of God.**

**Learn:**

**1) deference to Christ**

**2) deference to others**

1. **Deference is not compromising what is right.** To do that is to yield something you don't own. Deference is not okaying beer at a party. For God said, "Body is temple." "Strong drink stings like serpent bites like a viper" "Make fools of men"

**Deference is yielding your desires to another.** Agreeing to red carpet rather than blue although you can't stand OU or Arkansas.

2. **Deference is not always giving in. It is defending God, deferring self.**

#### **IV. PRACTICE OBEDIENCE**

This is simply deference to God-appointed authority in your life.

- A. Youth and children – find out what parents really want to see in you and do it. You will learn meekness. You do this for a few months and you'll see a difference.
  - 1. Less communication gap
  - 2. More freedom
  - 3. Less griping
  
- B. Employees – learn what pleases your boss and go all out to do it. You will learn meekness and things will be better in the office.
  
- C. To God – from His Word learn what He wants in you and do it. You will be meek, happy, inherit the earth, and the Lord will daily show Himself strong in your life.

Conclusion: Floor polisher– lots of power. Anyone could tear up a wall. Only those who know how to control the power can make old tile shine like granite.

Many pray for more power. We ought to pray to get what power we have under control.