

A Different Take On: ‘Meek and Lowly in Heart’

We are used to hearing the statement that Jesus said he was meek and lowly in heart. That’s rendered by other translations as ‘gentle and humble’.

But what was he really wanting to get across to the crowds of listeners in the vernacular of his time?

In context, he was inviting people who were striving and performing under the Jewish religious system to find who they really were in relationship with Father, and then they could stop their strenuous endeavours and be at rest. Religious rules and regulations were wearing them out, and he had the solution in the Kingdom, which would materialize under the New Covenant. His yoke of submission to himself would be easy because he’d be there assisting them to know the truth when they personally listened to him teaching them. That’s our responsibility as well.

The word ‘gentleness’ – also translated ‘meekness’ – has nothing to do with weakness, being a walk-over or having an inferiority complex. (That’s the pusillanimous Christian that’s portrayed in movies.) None of those were exemplified in the way Jesus of Nazareth operated, so we can’t read those attributes into what he said.

The NT concept was of Greek origin in the form of ‘tame’¹, as in a tamed (broken-in) horse. It infers *gentleness (reserve)* with *strength*. Here’s how the word and it’s derivatives are explained outside of Christian dogma:

“4239 πραΰς – This difficult-to-translate root (pra-) means more than "meek". Biblical meekness is not weakness but rather refers to exercising God's strength under His control – i.e. demonstrating power without undue harshness.”²

“4236 πραότης – Properly, temperate, displaying the right blend of force and reserve (gentleness)... ("strength in gentleness") avoids unnecessary harshness, yet without compromising or being too slow to use necessary force.”³

In other words, it’s like a horse which has great innate strength and power, that has been tamed (broken in), who yields to the gentle tug of the reins. This once wild animal curbs its strength and power, remaining docile, until the rider, wagon driver or ploughman instructs it to use its full capability.

This is a very important Kingdom concept to understand and utilize. We are powerful as sons, but we don’t wield power unless we know we have to. In other words, we have serious self-control. Therefore, at all times we remain ‘cool, calm and collected’, assessing situations, listening to the Spirit, and operating in strength and power only when it’s absolutely right to do so. This is essential for those who have an apostolic mantle.

Likewise, ‘lowly’ (also translated ‘humble’) has nothing to do with weakness, being a walk-over or having an inferiority complex. Those are actually the opposite of what humility is:

“5011 ταπεινός – 'not rising far from the ground'; metaphorically as a condition, 'lowly', 'of low degree’”⁴

Humility is knowing your place, and not raising yourself above what your place or status is, in the context of where you are and who you are with. It’s about not elevating yourself for personal reasons, but it doesn’t negate operating in the power and authority that you do have.

1 – SEE: “ πρᾶος ” Adjective meaning #3
en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%CF%80%CF%81%E1%BE%B6%CE%BF%CF%82

2 – biblehub.com/greek/4239.htm

3 – biblehub.com/greek/4236.htm

4 – www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G5011/tapeinos.htm

Jesus demonstrated genuine meekness and humility, so as he's our prototype,⁵ it's up to each of us to emulate him.

'In heart' means that being gentle and humble is who we have really become – it's not an act or a façade. We know our power and spiritual strength, but we only use it when the Spirit shows us to release it. Also, we instinctively blend in with others, not big-noting or promoting ourselves. We leave that to the King to elevate us and raise us up, we don't do it ourselves at any time.

NOTE: Modern spiritual warfare and spiritual warriors operate outside of the above principles, because their activity all comes from the mind and the soul. (I know, I used to do them myself, out of ignorance.)

Believe It or Not! **The choice is yours**

Whatever you choose to believe won't negatively impact Father's relationship with you

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)