

Devotions with Matt

April 30, 2020

THE MEEK

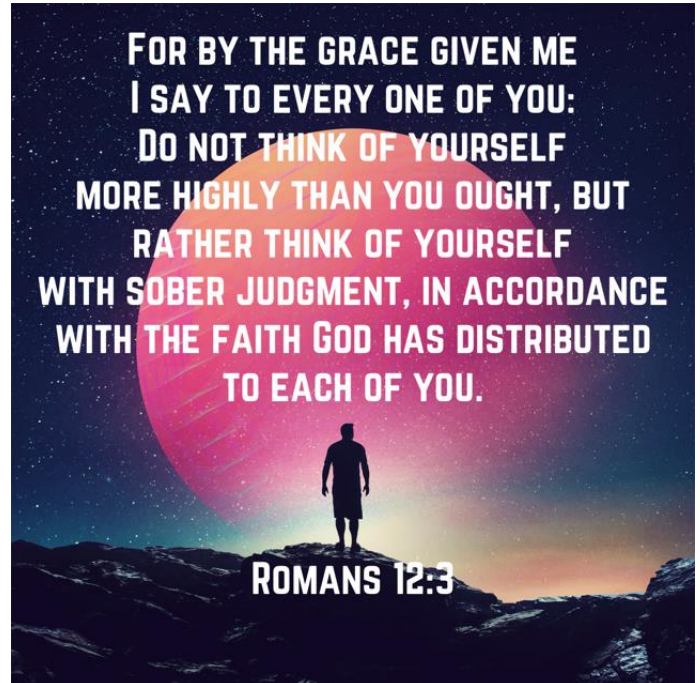
What rhymes with weak? Meek. Not only do they rhyme, but in our society they have become synonymous. Nobody likes to be thought of as weak and no one likes to hear that people think of them as meek. Except for maybe one guy. According to Bill Farmer's newspaper column, J. Upton Dickson was a fun-loving fellow who said he was writing a book entitled 'Cower Power'. He also founded a group of submissive people. It was called DOORMATS. That stands for "Dependent Organization Of Really Meek And Timid Souls -- if there are no objections." Their motto was: "The meek shall inherit the earth -- if that's okay with everybody." Their symbol was the yellow traffic light. I believe the organization was meant to be a joke.

In our world the meek are the weak. The rich and powerful seem to inherit the earth. Those with control and influence over others get the goods. High ranking governmental forces around the world get what they want. Leaders of small third world countries end up making the list of the top 50 richest people in the world and buy islands. Our own politicians make a pretty penny while in office and command millions when they get out. They are not meek. They are the rich and powerful and they seem to be the ones inheriting the earth.

In the Beatitudes Jesus says the opposite. He says the meek are the blessed ones for they will inherit the earth. As I look around the world, Jesus' words about the meek are a head scratcher for me. The meek are looked down upon. The meek are run over and over looked. "Remember" they said, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." What then do the meek, the gentile and the quiet get? It seems in this world they get to be doormats.

I'm sure this is not a new phenomenon. The ancient Greeks and Romans sure didn't applaud meekness. The strong, the winners and the battle hardened got the medals and accolades. This seems to be true of all cultures across the millennia. I'm sure it was true for those Jesus was speaking to that day as well. So why would He say it? What was the response? Was He wrong? I believe His definition and understanding of meek is different from the rest of ours.

In God's eyes, a meek person is someone who is not fooled by himself. He or she accepts God's estimate of their life. They know they are weak and helpless in their own salvation. They understand their standing with God, that apart from Jesus they can do nothing. The meek rely on God's power and not their own. The meek are the reconcilers of broken relationships. They are the ones who forgive easily. They are the ones who are tolerant in the face of both adversity and provocation. The meek don't look to stand on their own rights, but rather look out for the rights of others. The only rights the meek desire are the right to love God and the right to love their neighbors as themselves. The meek are the ones who give up their own rights to find true greatness in service to others. The meek are not doormats- they are lovers and justice seekers.



Jesus says the meek, the ones who find great joy in giving up their own rights in order to help and love others, will inherit the earth. It may not seem true now, but that is the way we were created to live and the way the world was meant to be. That is the way the new world will be when Jesus comes back and makes it new. Living in joyful submission to our King, serving Him and others, looking to other's rights above our own will be the way. The meek are ready for that new world and are willing to patiently wait for it by loving God and loving others now. It won't be long when the meek will no longer be doormats, but will truly inherit the earth.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. Romans 12:3

In Christ,

Matt