

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 38)

SPIRITUAL CONTROL. "Blessed are the meek" (Matthew 5:5). Meekness is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23). Meekness welcomes the rule of the Holy Spirit over the human spirit. Meekness has been explained as anger under control. A meek person maintains a peaceful response when his authority is resisted. It is the attitude of Jesus before Pilate. It is restraint from reacting against willful opposition. John Mac Arthur states, "Meekness...is not weakness, but rather supreme self-control empowered by the Holy Spirit." Moses acted in meekness when Korah rebelled against his God-given authority. Moses fell on his face before the people. He chose not to defend his authority, but to appeal to his opponents. Nee says, "He who persuades in return to an attack is truly a meek person... In Moses' action we can see that those who represent authority seek for restoration, not division, even after they have been rejected." The world praises strength and power. Meekness is backwards to worldly wisdom. It is the opposite of instinct. When our flesh wants to be aggressive, Jesus calls for control. This is radical thinking. Lloyd-Jones stated that "it is so completely and entirely opposed to everything which the natural man thinks." What is the blessing for the meek? They "will inherit the earth." Lloyd-Jones expresses it well: "World conquest – possession of the whole universe – given to the meek, of all people."