



In the short span of five days between the Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday and the Crucifixion on Good Friday, the crowds who had cheered Jesus with shouts of “Hosanna” now despised him with demands to “Crucify Him!” This Messiah had not met their expectations. He had not liberated them from the oppressive yoke of Rome. They concluded that the military and political savior they had anticipated must be someone else. Jesus had failed them. You can almost hear them say, “Just kill Him. He failed us. He claimed to be God, but if He really were God, He would have liberated us, protected us, and restored our power and our land.”

But Jesus had not come to remove the burden of the Roman yoke. He came instead with an alternative: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29). Unlike the cruel and mighty Caesars of the Empire of Rome, the Kingdom of God was led by One who was compassionate and Almighty, “gentle and humble in heart.” Zechariah had predicted this moment when he said, “See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey” (9:9). It came down to whether or not they would recognize the difference between the mighty and the meek and then make the choice that would secure their happiness and their inheritance. “Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).

While you see meekness in Jesus’ deliberate obedience to His Father, it is even more evident in His reaction to His enemies! Make no mistake: *meekness* is not *weakness*. It is *power under control*. It is often true, however, that our weakness compels us to meekness, for “when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). You and I may question whether or not God really understands how weary we are from the personal battles and burdens we carry. But at the end of the day, Jesus is just waiting for us to realize that He is willing to carry most of the yoke’s burden on His own shoulders. He will exercise ultimate justice on your enemies (Romans 12:17-21). He is ready to give rest to the meek, to those who have yielded control of their lives to Him.

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1. Moses was said to be the meekest man on earth. What was he like? (Numbers 12:1-13, Exodus 3:11, 4:10)
  2. Describe the qualities of those who “inherit the land.” How do these relate to meekness?  
Isaiah 57:13  
Psalm 69:36  
Psalm 105:11  
Mark 10:17-31  
Hebrews 6:12  
James 2:5  
1 Peter 3:9  
Revelation 21:7
  3. Jesus quotes Psalm 37:11. Read the entire Psalm and highlight the verbs. What are the characteristics of:  
The meek (trusting in God)?  
The malevolent (wicked)?
  4. Meekness is an active and deliberate acceptance of (not a passive resignation or reluctant submission to) undesirable circumstances that are wisely seen as only part of a larger picture. Relate a personal example of this.
  5. How would people describe you differently if you were truly “meek”? How could this affect your leadership?

*Jesus said, “But I tell you, do not resist an evil person.  
If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”* (Matthew 5:39)