

WALK SOFTLY

Matthew 5:5

August 3, 2008 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

- A. President Theodore Roosevelt adopted as his pet proverb, "**Speak softly and carry a big stick.**" By that he meant that if the U.S. had a strong military, it could work its will among the nations of the world. In 1901, Roosevelt elaborated on his philosophy: "**If a man continually blusters, a big stick will not save him from trouble; and neither will speaking softly avail, if back of the softness there does not lie strength, power.**"
- B. One of Jesus' pet proverbs is found in Matthew 5:5—READ.
- C. Like Roosevelt, lets elaborate on what Jesus meant as we continue to examine Jesus' eight ways to be happy in these beatitudes.

I. FIRST, LETS CONSIDER WHAT HE DIDN'T MEAN.

- A. The word meekness has lost it meaning today.
 - 1. Today we think it means: weak, wimpy, timid, cowardly, effeminate, or being a geek.
 - 2. We sometimes say, "As meek as a mouse."
- B. A woman once said to her husband: "Are you a man or a mouse? Squeak up!"
- C. This is not what Jesus meant.

II. SECOND, WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY BEING MEEK?

- A. In the Greek language it is used two ways.
- B. First, it refers to "anger under control".
 - 1. We often think that meek people never get angry. This isn't true.
 - 2. Jesus described himself as being meek.
Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
 - 3. Yet even Jesus got angry at the moneychangers in the Temple.
 - 4. Moses is said to be the meekest man to ever live.
Numbers 12:3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)
 - 5. Yet Moses got angry too.
Exodus 32:19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.
 - 6. The difference between a meek person and just a mad person is that a meek person gets angry at the right thing, not everything.
- C. Second, it refers to "power under control."
 - 1. The word is used to describe domesticating a wild horse.
 - 2. The horse is still as strong and powerful as he ever was, but now he is under the control of another.
 - 3. A meek person, like a wild horse, is now under God's control rather than his own.

III. HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE ARE MEEK?

A. By the way we treat other people.

1. How do you treat people who serve you? (i.e. waitresses, secretaries, bank tellers, fast food servers, etc).
 - a. I was at the counter of McDonalds two weeks ago when a lady wanting something said to the young boy, "While you're just standing there I need some sweet and sour sauce."
 - b. A few weeks ago I helped our daughter move into another house in Houston. We also took some things to put in her room at the new school she will be teaching at. She went into the office to ask for a key and her new principal told her a true story. A new young teacher was moving things into her room too. The principal was doing the same thing that day. The principal had borrow a back support belt from one of the school custodians and while walking out to her car was approached by the new young teacher. The new teacher, not recognizing the principal, asked her to unpack her car and put the things in her room. The principal did. The young teacher was mortified to find out later she had asked her new principal to unpack her car.
 - c. The Bible tells us to treat others as we would want to be treated—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

2. How do you treat people who disagree with you?

Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

3. How do you treat someone who hurts you?

Romans 12:17-18 ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

4. How do you treat people who make you mad?

Proverbs 16:32 Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city.

B. We also know we are meek by the way we treat God. King David tells us how to treat God....

Psalms 37:3-11

³ Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret--it leads only to evil.

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

The meek are those who depend and trust on God. They will inherit the earth.

CONCLUSION

A. Its not just those who carry a big stick who inherit the earth.

B. Its those who walk softly and carry a big stick. It's the meek person who personifies anger and power under control.

C. Are you meek or mean?