

Meek and Lowly

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. – Matthew 11:29

One of the paradoxes of the Christian life is the more we strive to be like Christ, the more we realize how much unlike Him we are in our flesh. For me personally, I find these two characteristics of heart to be simultaneously the most desirable and the least attainable. Meek and lowly. How sweetly our Lord exhibits these attributes of spirit. Let us meditate upon the Savior's mastery of the inner man, and how we can and should emulate Him in these things...

Meekness is often confused with weakness. It is anything but! Meekness is birthed from a humble confidence – not in self, but in the Creator. From a God-ward standpoint, one who is meek is submissive to the Father's will, patient in tribulation, and earnest to please Heaven. In relation to dealing with our fellow man, it means being gentle, patient, easily imposed upon, and even graciously responding when offended. Think about that – how frequently during our Lord's earthly ministry He dealt so kindly and tenderly with those who came in contact with Him. With His disciples, He endured their faults and failings, and loved them to the end. He tolerantly answered their at-times foolish and obtuse questions, gently rebuked their frequent self-will, and lovingly brokered peace during their selfish disputes. With His enemies, His patience was not forced, but genuine. With the Pharisees and scribes, as He was wont, He taught them yet again. And again. And again. Even from His cross, this meekest of men even implored His Father to forgive the very people who were crucifying Him.

And He is lowly – humble. Could there be a more foreign concept to the fleshly self that resides within the human breast. But not with Jesus! He Who thought it not robbery to be equal with God made Himself of no reputation to be made in the likeness of sinful men. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself. In every interaction, public and private, we see in our Master the essence and definition of humility – self being of no consequence and “me” esteemed to be nothing at all. Instead, a preoccupation with God and men consumed Him to His core. Even in His glorious resurrection, His appearances to His disciples were utterly unostentatious and unassuming, designed not to flaunt His preeminence, but to build their faith. What a Savior!

How unlike Him I am! How quick my frustration, how self-absorbed my perspective, how proud my actions, how abrasive my interactions! In meekness and lowliness, Christ's heart was so large, and mine is so very small. Lord, enlarge our hearts to be like yours. Help us to learn of You. --- *D. Murcek*