



AUTHENTIC JESUS

Authentic Gentleness

[Mark 11:28-30]

*Blessed are the meek [praus - gentle],
for they shall inherit the earth. [Daniel 7:27]
Matthew 5:5*

The Four Pillars of Gentleness

- [1] Controlled Power [praus]
- [2] Confidence in Crisis
- [3] Comfort in Chaos
- [4] Considerate Respect [Serving]

Discussion Questions/Prayer

- [1] Read Matthew 5:5. D.A. Carson wrote, "With an eternal perspective in view can a believer afford to be gentle [meek]." Can you afford to be gentle today? Do you trust God in a way that you know all things will be made right in the end? Are you free to suffer wrong and lean into the Lord? [Abide]
- [2] Read Luke 22:47-51. In these verses, we see Peter causing quite a scene and Jesus cleans it up. The text literally says Jesus shouted, "No more of this!" When you engage in a crisis how do you react? What can you learn from the confidence of Jesus in this crisis?
- [3] Read John 13:3-14. This text is all about serving others. When we serve others, it shows a high level of respect and reflects the heart of Jesus in our lives. When is the last time you have humbled yourself as a servant and served others? What did you do?
- [4] Pray for God to give you the power to live with gentle confidence in the chaos of life driven by His Spirit.

Isaiah 11:1-4 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ^{3a} And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness [praus], self-control; against such things there is no law.

Controlled Power

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle [praus] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 21:5 [NIV] "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle [praus] and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

Confidence in Crisis

Luke 22:47-51 While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹ And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him.

Comfort in Chaos

Mark 7:24-30 Jesus . . . went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. ²⁵ For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him, and she came and fell at His feet. ²⁶ The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ But Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

²⁸ And she answered and said to Him, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children's crumbs."

²⁹ Then He said to her, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." ³⁰ And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter lying on the bed.

Considerate Respect

John 13:3-5, 12-14 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. . . . ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

Meekness [praus - gentle] - is not about giving up power but rather diligently harnessing it for the good of others. - Mark E. Caner