

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Numbers 12:1-8**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (04-24-94).
- C. The words "meek" and "meekness" are often misunderstood.
 - 1. Some think the words describe weakness and lack of resolve.
 - a. The opposite is more generally true.
 - b. Those without strength or resolve are often loud and oppressive trying to hide their weaknesses.
 - 2. Vine's *Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, explains that men often misjudge "meekness" to be weakness, but as demonstrated by X, it is confidence in power:
"The Lord was meek because He had the infinite resources of God at His command."
 - a. True meekness is an indication of confidence in strength and is not preoccupied with self, but others.
 - b. Webster's *New Dictionary of Synonyms* lists meekness as a Xian virtue--"consistent mildness and gentleness of temper."
 - c. The word gentle comes as close as any to describe the strong being under self-control.

I. SOME WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS MEEK IN SCRIPTURE.

- A. Moses was the meekest man on earth in his day.
 - 1. Num. 12:3 (The KJV says meek.)
 - 2. No one would claim that Moses was weak or cowardly. At 40, he choose to be identified w/the slaves rather than the ruling class (Heb. 11:24-29).
 - 3. He led a nation of 2-3 million slaves through a wilderness for 40 years.
 - a. They were stubborn and rebellious.
 - b. It was not a job for the fainthearted and timid.
 - 4. Even when Moses sinned at the waters of Meribah, (Num. 20:2-13) the psalmist said that the people provoked him (Psa. 106:32-33).
 - 5. As a leader and lawgiver, Moses is compared to X.
- B. David has more to say about meekness than any other OT writer:
 - 1. This statement by Jesus reflects David (Psa. 37:11).
 - 2. He is regarded as Israel's greatest king and God called him "a man after My own heart" as said by Paul at Antioch (Ac. 13:22).
 - 3. The X was often identified as "the son of David."
 - 4. Several of the psalms attributed to David have the Hebrew word for meek (Psa. 9:18; 22:26; 25:9).
 - 5. Several psalms, whose writer is not identified, mentions meekness (Psa. 147:6; 149:4).
- C. Jesus is the standard for meekness for all inspiration (Mt. 11:28-30; 2Cor. 10:1; Rev. 5:5-6).
- D. Here the HS links the characteristics of a lion and a lamb in describing the X.
 - 1. The lion is known for its courage and strength.
 - 2. The lamb is known for its meekness and gentleness.
 - 3. Meekness is sometimes described as strength under control.
 - 4. That certainly describes these Bible characters that are mentioned as being meek.

II. IT IS VALUABLE TO HAVE THESE QUALITIES IN OUR LIVES.

- A. We can learn to be meek and self-controlled.

1. Some claim that their “hot temper” is a part of their being and that they can't help it.
 - a. But they do control it when they want to.
 - b. They control themselves when around someone important to them.
 - c. They control themselves when they think it dangerous to do otherwise.
 - d. They control themselves when the occasion is important.
 2. We have instructions about learning self-control (1Th. 4:11; Jas. 1:21; Phil. 4:11; Zeph. 2:3).
 3. James and John, the sons of Zebedee were known as “sons of Thunder” (Mk. 3:17). This is sometimes interpreted as a “fiery disposition” (Lk. 9:54).
- B. Many did change their disposition.
1. As just mentioned, John changed from “the son of thunder” to “the apostle of love.”
 2. Saul of Tarsus, the blasphemer and persecutor became the apostle to the Gentiles who endured more persecution than we know about in any other NT person.
 3. The Corinthians changed (1Cor. 6:9-11).
 4. If we did not change our attitudes and behavior when we were baptized, we were not converted, because repentance is a change of heart that results in a change of behavior.
 5. The change may be slow, w/relapse, and it will take great effort, but we can do it.
 6. This is part of the spiritual growth that is essential for Xians.
 - a. It takes a long time to grow to maturity.
 - b. We need the understanding and encouragement of each other to do it.
 - c. The Lord promises that no temptation will overtake us except those common to man, and that He will provide a way of escape that we may be able to bear it.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Meekness is being strong, but humble, and self-controlled.
- B. No one is so weak as one who cannot control himself.
- C. “Losing our temper” is often just self-gratification.
- D. Let us care enough about others that we will control ourselves and show the love and consideration that X did for others.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.