

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Gentleness

Sunday, April 14, 2024

Scripture: **Galatians 5:22-23**

Series: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

OVERVIEW

Many misunderstand gentleness, perceiving it as a weakness caused by a lack of courage or strength. In our divisive culture, it can also be misinterpreted as a lack of conviction. However, Jesus Christ is full of both grace and truth. He exemplifies godly gentleness by carefully helping us from His position of supreme power, might, and righteousness. **Gentleness is the means by which God helps the weary and the wayward.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Titus 3:1-11, Ephesians 4:1-3, 1 Peter 3:1-4, 2 Corinthians 10:1-6, Proverbs 15:4, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 1 Peter 3:13-17, Psalm 18:35, Matthew 11:28-30, Matthew 12:15-21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who seems more powerful to you—a person who responds to injury with gentleness or vengeance? Why?
2. Read Psalm 18:35. Does it surprise you that God's gentleness made David great? How might this be?
3. Proverbs 15:4 compares a holy, gentle tongue to the tree of life. In what ways are these similar?
4. John 13:3-5 tells us what was on Jesus' mind as he humbled himself to care for his wayward disciples by washing their feet (i.e., that the Father had given all things into His hands and that He had come from God and was going back to God). What does this suggest was behind Jesus' act of gentleness?
5. Our world is full of foolish, ignorant controversies. According to 2 Timothy 2:24-26, what tactic has the potential to win over your opponents? Can you think of an example where such behavior led to a person coming "to their senses?"
6. Paradoxically, it requires great strength to be gentle. Where can you get this strength?