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Rev Robert Denham

Do not ever let an opportunity go by. Grab on to life with all your strength. Take the bull by the horns. Assert yourself. Show them who is boss. Do not be timid. Show no weakness. Be strong & powerful. Never say sorry. Go get 'em.

On and on the words of power, the words of go-getters, the words of world grabbers pound. To succeed we all think we need to be tough and almost brutal.

The shy, the poor, the meek, the mice of this world, just line the streets, get kicked, and yearn for a rescuer.

Are you a man or a mouse? A winner or a woose? Are you on the way up, or going nowhere? Are you prepared to do the nasty necessities to get what is on offer?

That is the supposed gospel of the so-called "Bible" of business. It is supposed to fill our hearts with cheer, as we wait for the blessed day of the financial haven, complete with gold plated i-phone and Alpha Romeo.

The world is our oyster, it only takes a backstab or two to get it. Another time it may have literally been swords to win the world. And in much Christianity today, there is the same thrust of the need for power and worldly ideals.

For we are told the world is against us. To win as God intended, we cannot have a divided feeble church. Rather THE church victorious, triumphant and united, should conquer the enemy.

Some Christians are convinced that until we show a powerful sway in lobby groups, the media, church attendance, or whatever, then the world will ignore us. Until that power is seen, how can we win the world?

But Jesus said *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

It is a direct contrast. Not the organised, not the back stabbing, not the powerful, not the rich, but the meek inherit the earth.

Are you meek? What is a meek person like? Can they be easily pushed over with a slap of wet spaghetti? Are they doormats, trampled and trodden on by others?

Being meek is not a weakness. It is not being wishy-washy. It is not being indecisive or timid. Nor is it just being really nice. It's not being a little lap dog, who looks with watery eyes.

The word meek is also translated in the New Testament as "Gentle". So the meek person is gentle. Blessed are the gentle.

Abraham was meek or gentle. When his nephew Lot wanted to split from the family, Abraham offered him any land he wanted. Lot took the best, and Abraham took the rest. That was meek. God blessed him and he prospered, while Lot lost all he had, even his wife.

The Bible lists many others who were meek, but let us go for the best. Jesus - only Jesus was perfectly meek.

*Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

But his meekness allowed him to clear the temple.

His meekness allowed him to exorcise demons.

His meekness allowed him to be arrested, and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so he suffered for us without opening his mouth in complaint.

He could have let Peter slash off more ears. He could have called millions of angels to defend him. He could have come down from the cross and blasted his enemies. He could have, but he meekly trusted his soul to God, and died for us.

But why should we be meek? Why should we be gentle, and not aggressively assert our own way? Why not be like those called "Winners" who play hard and have that steely edge? Why be gentle?

First, because Jesus was meek, we are to be like him, for He is the perfect image of God. Gentleness or meekness is a fruit of the Spirit. And as we grow more like Christ, we will be more meek and more gentle. God changes us to have a more kid glove approach to people, even when we disagree with them.

And secondly, we are to be gentle because the meek are blessed, and will inherit the earth. Now, we will have contentment, and will not have the same hunger for more that the greedy do. Then, we will inherit the new heavens and the new earth. Eternal life is our blessing.

But Jesus was also quoting Psalm 37:11. I am going to read verses 1-11, which talks about responding to injustice.

*Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die*

Matthew 5:5

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*away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desire of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. 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. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret... it only leads to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. A little while and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. But the meek will inherit the land, and enjoy great peace.*

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Why? Because our God brings His justice.