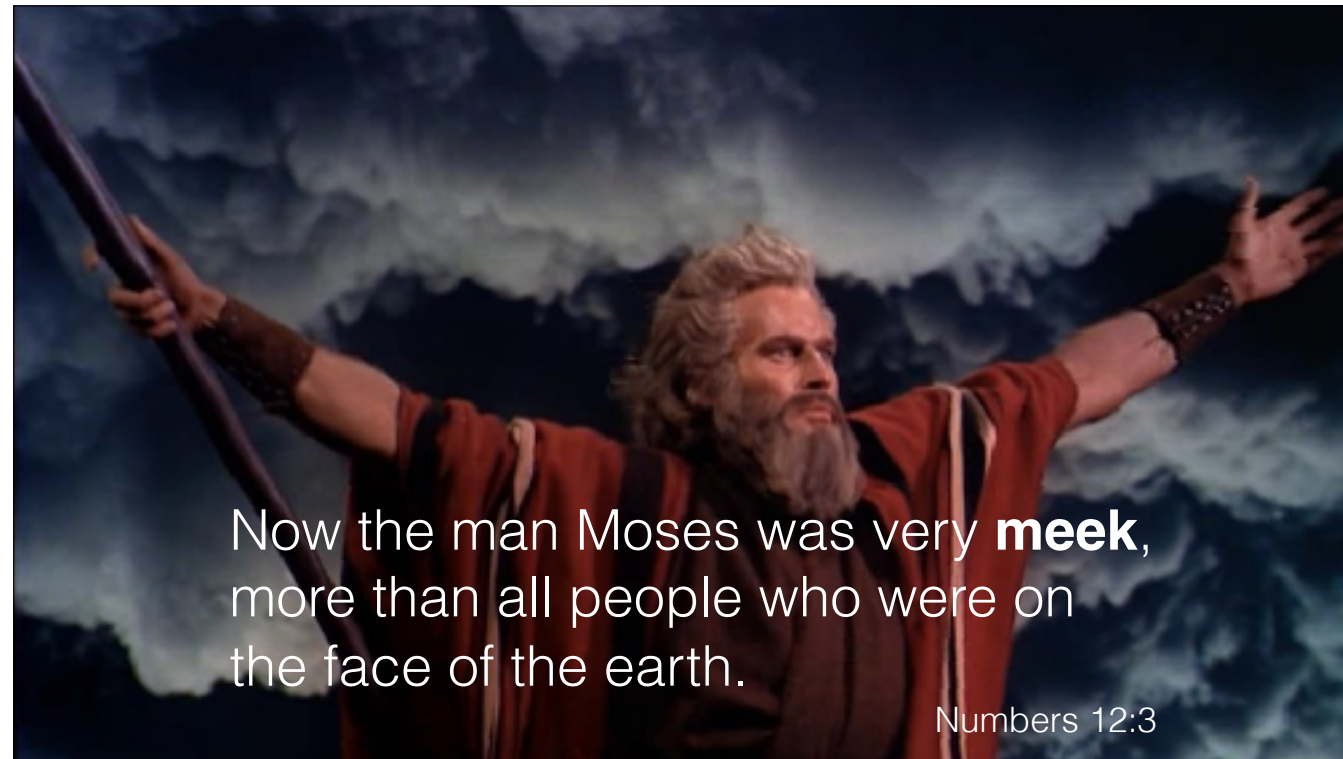


The Blessed Life
Meek
Matthew 5:5

Are You Under Control?

Are You Under Control?



- Numbers 12:3: Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.
- Leading God's people out of the slavery of Egypt to the promised land, people complaining along the way, blaming, wanting to go back.
- How did he do it?
- What does it mean to be meek?



**Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.**

Mt. 5.5: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"blessed"

> Happy

= Approved by God



Much deeper meaning: approved by God and therefore favored by God; we are to be congratulated. Applause of heaven (Lucado)



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Meek

1. humbly patient or docile, as under provocation from others.
2. overly submissive or compliant; spiritless; tame.
3. Obsolete. gentle; kind.

dictionary.com

A photograph of a person riding a brown horse in a field. The rider is wearing a blue jacket and jeans. The horse is brown with a black tail. The background is a grassy field with a dirt path.

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**Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.**

weak, wishy-washy, easily persuaded, manipulated, controlled.
timid, ineffective

Not how Jesus used this word...



Meek = strength under control

Thayer and Vincent: gentle, mild, meek

Greeks used this word to describe a horse...



Which of these horses is meek?



Greeks used this word to describe a well-trained horse

Well-trained horse is useful.

break a horse or fail to train horse and it is useless:



Usually we think of meek as being weak and ineffectual.

break a horse and it will not use its strength

train a horse using harshness or brutality and it becomes useless;

Although a powerful animal, it will not use it's strength.



Fail to train horse and it is useless:

is too willful and cannot be controlled.

Uses it's strength to do as it pleases, rebels against any one who tries to force it



Well-trained horse is useful.

willing to be controlled, use strength to accomplish will of another (even a child!)



Barclay: strength and gentleness perfectly combined

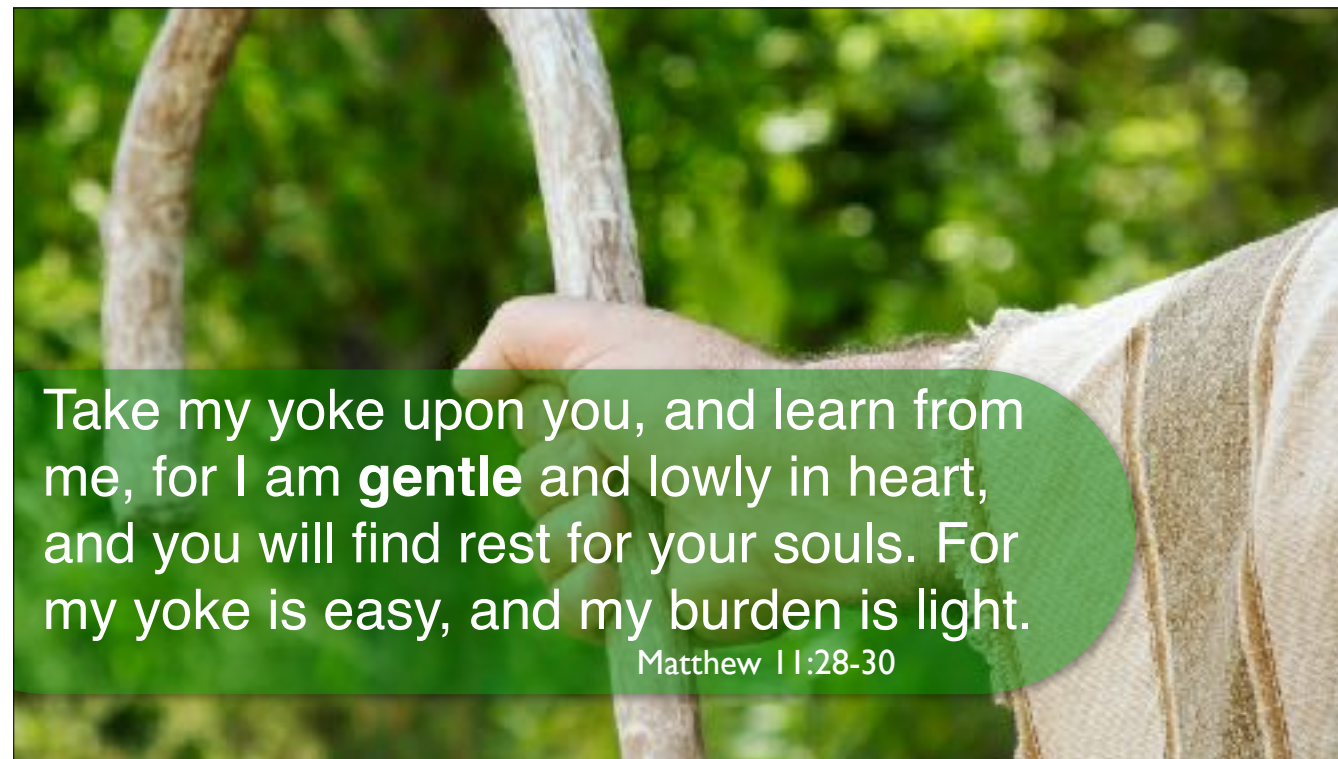
A gentle horse is useful and profitable to it's master.

Rowdy: God's power in me under His control



The Example of Jesus

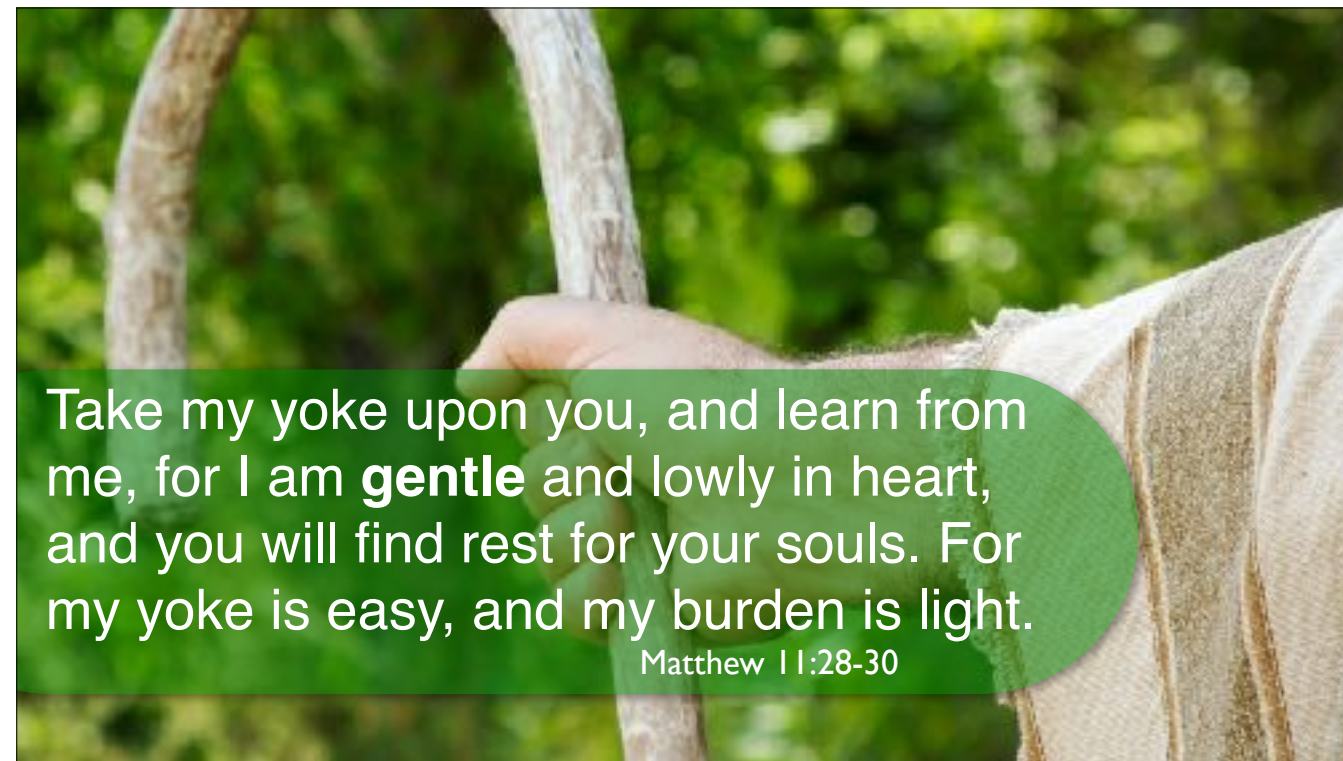
Mt. 11



Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am **gentle** and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

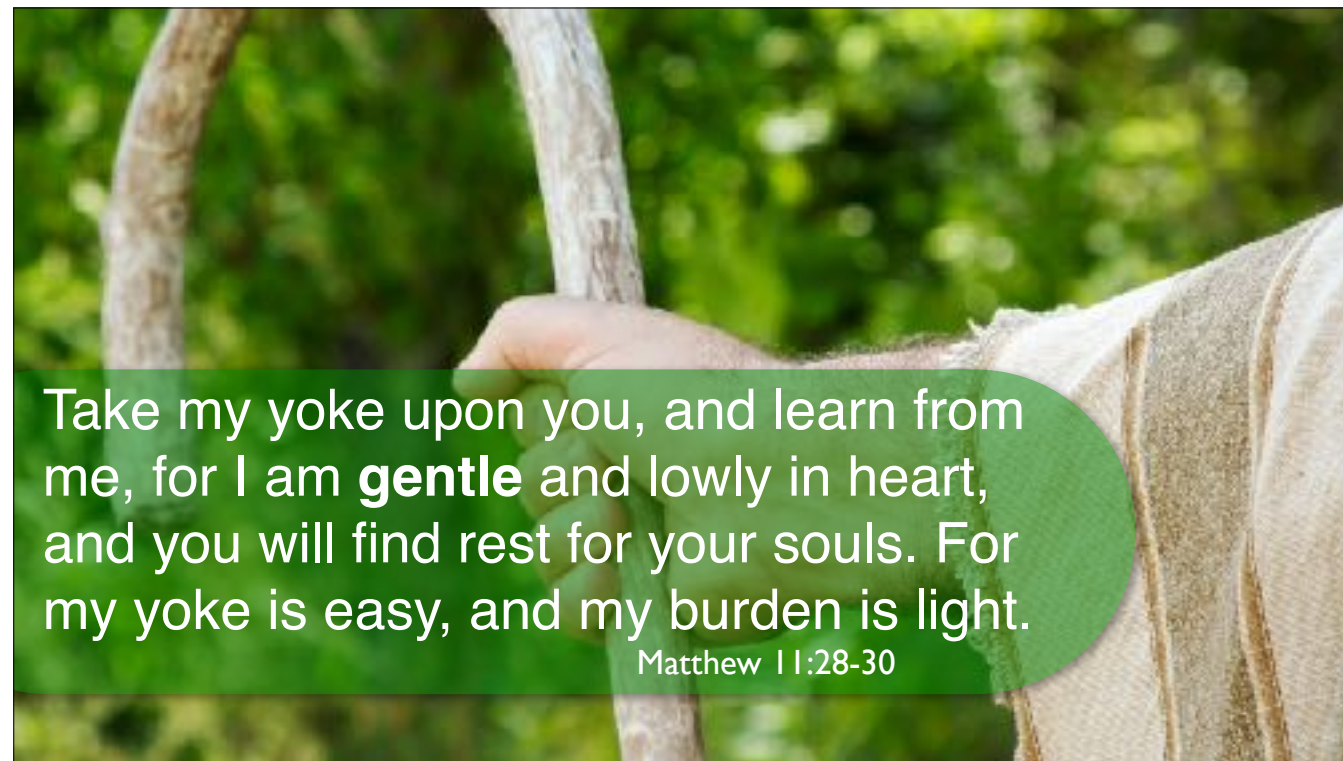
Matthew 11:28-30

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



Labor and Heavy Laden...

Life without Jesus is often difficult and burdensome...

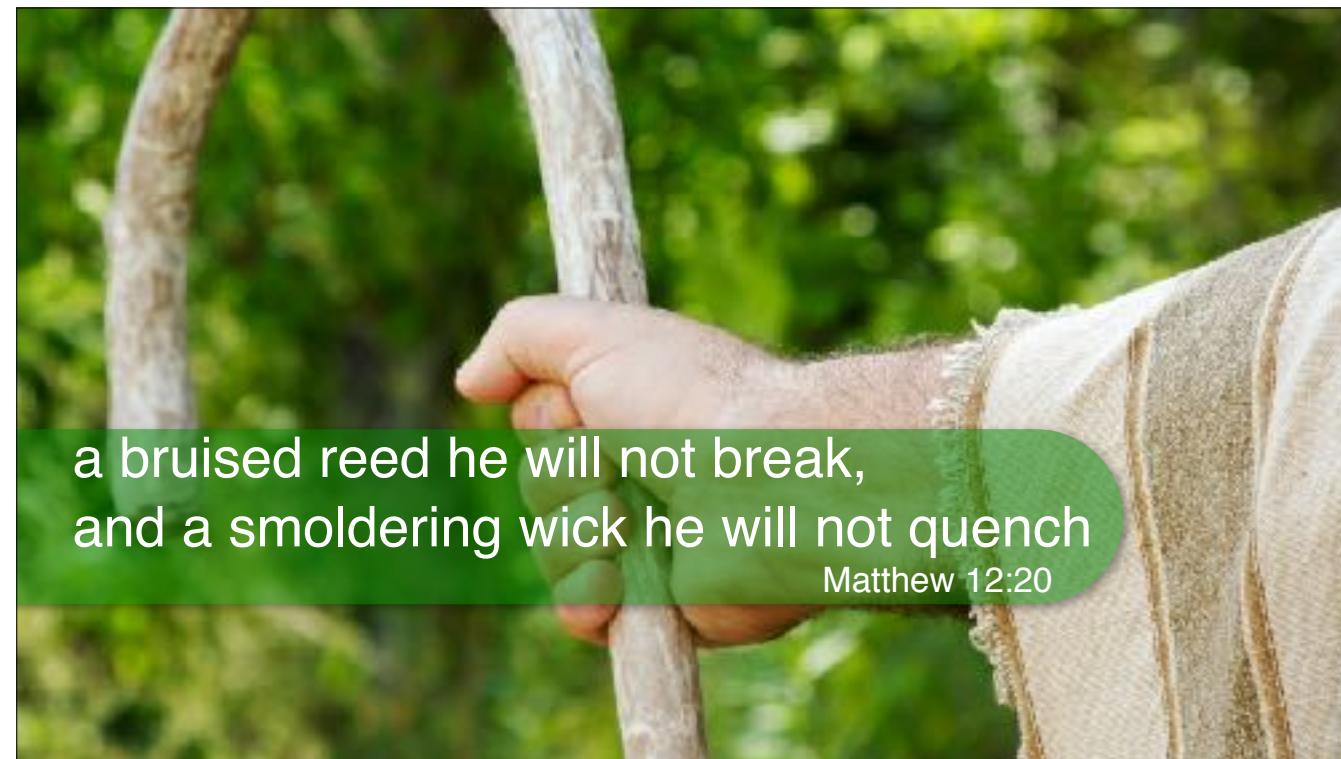


Put a yoke on = going to work.

Our master is gentle when we go to work for Him.

We are going to work, but he will not be harsh!

Our rest is found in not having to face the trials of living willfully in opposition to Him and the Father.

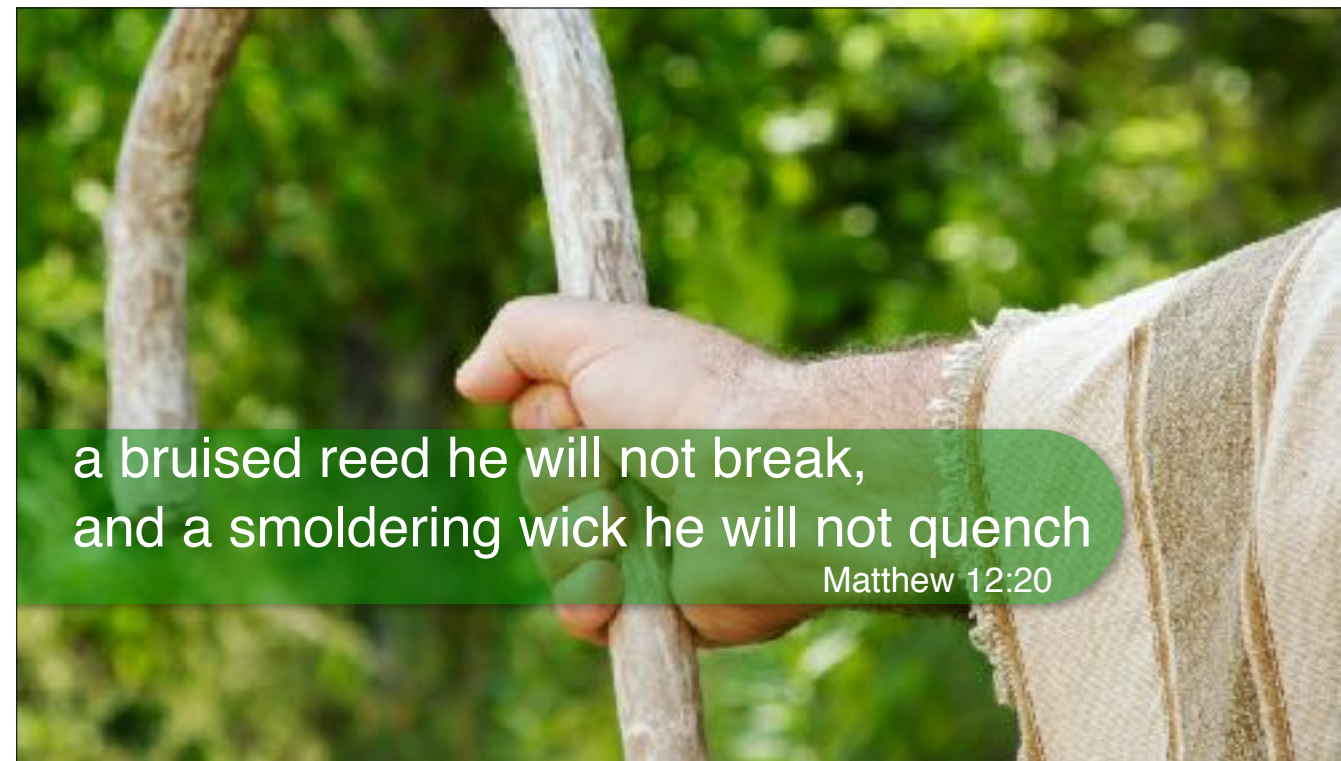


a bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not quench
Matthew 12:20

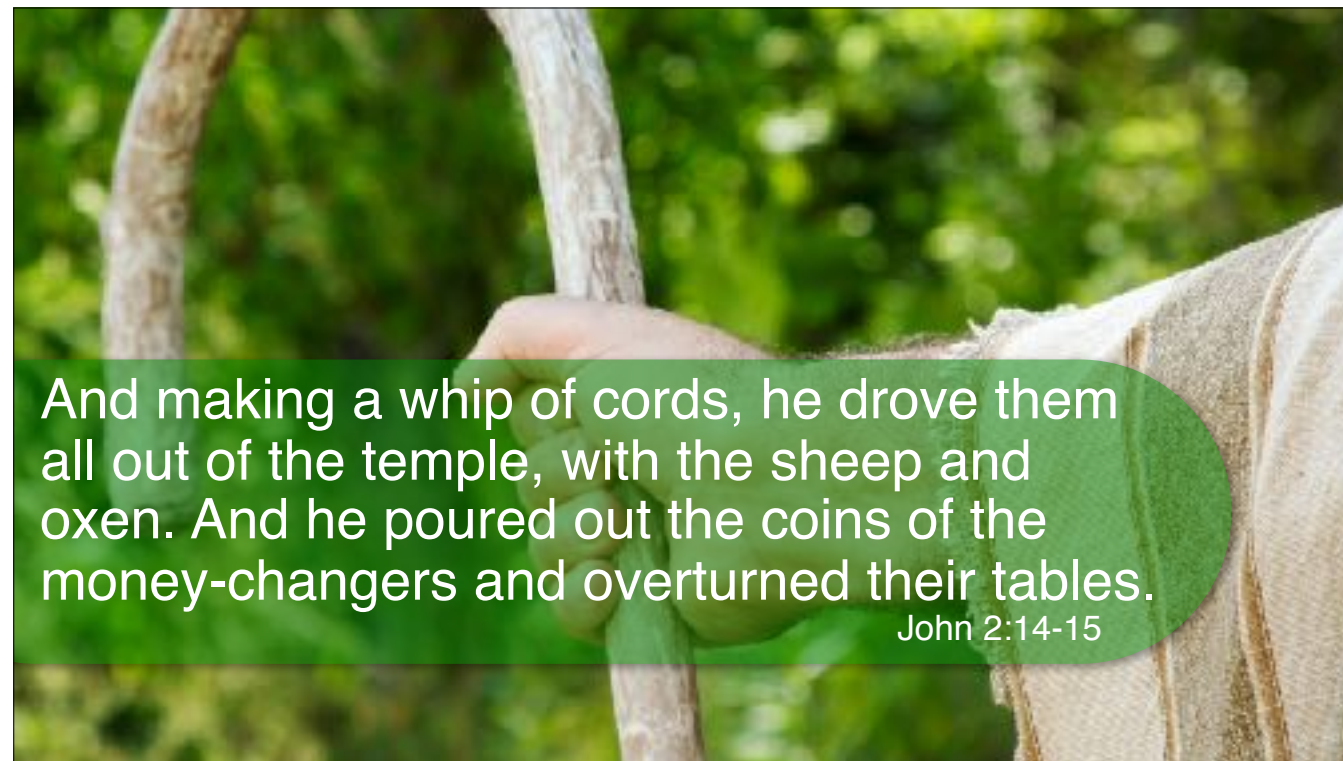
Matthew 12:20-21: a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; and in his name the Gentiles will hope.” (Is 42:1-3: my servant)

Not physical, spiritual.

When we are broken and hurting, close to giving up... he is gentle.



Strong in doing what is right, best, good; but instead of destroying (because he can) he is gentle to restore and repair: victory and hope!



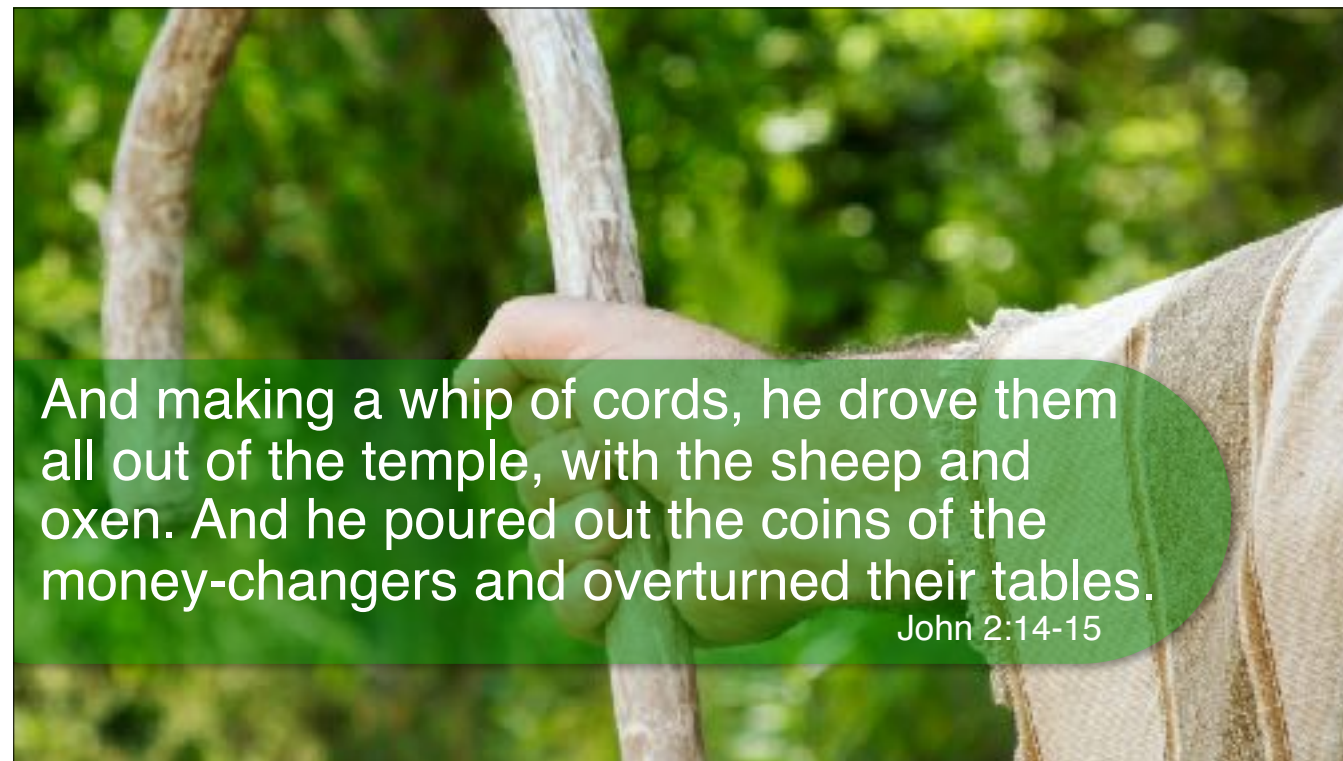
And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

John 2:14-15

John 2:13-17: The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen.

Does this sound meek? (certainly not timid, weak)

meek: power under control!

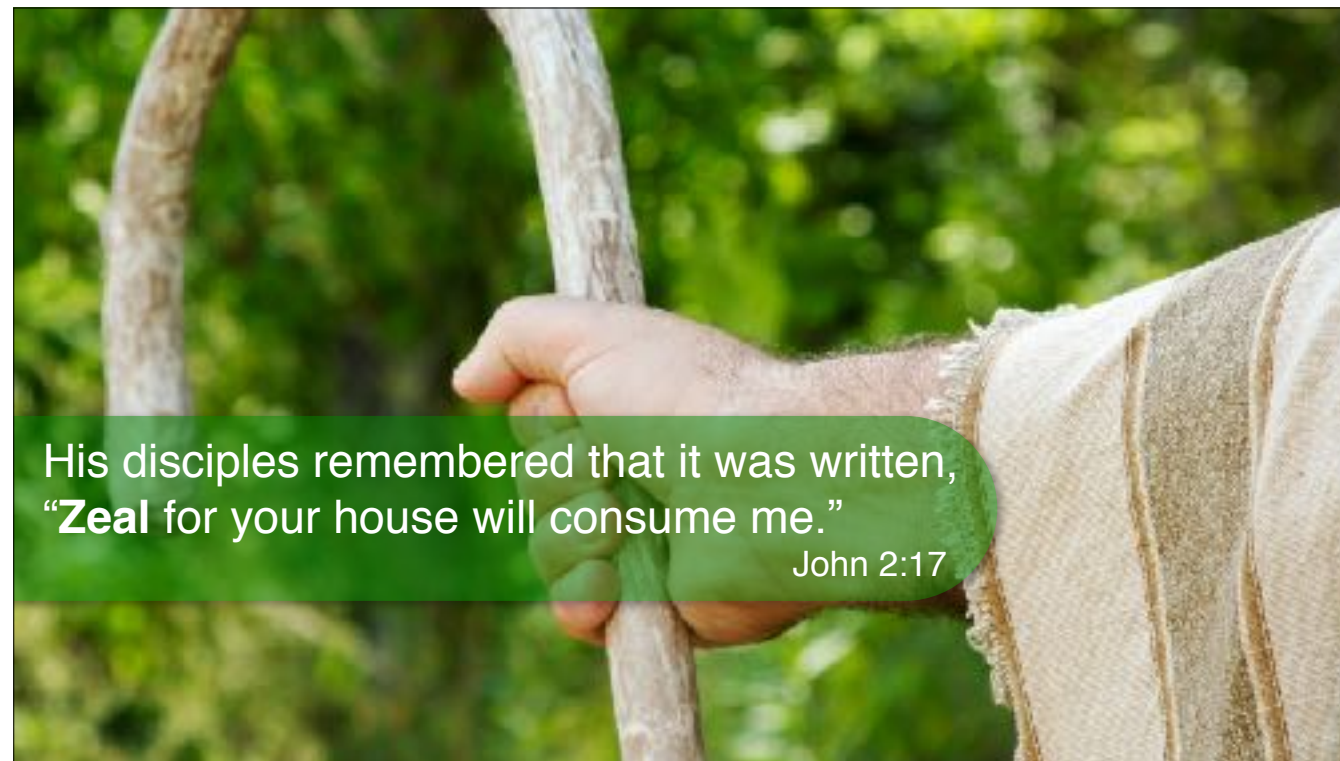


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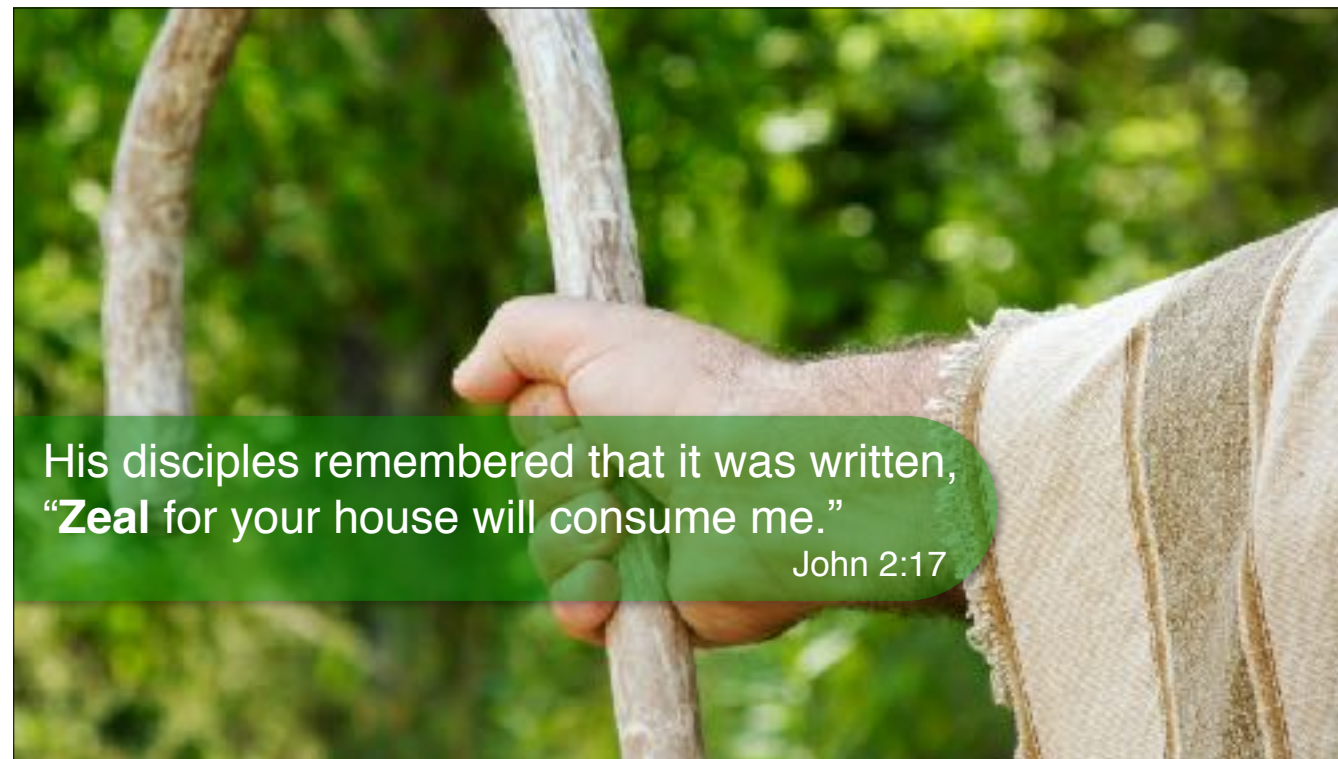
What these people were doing was very wrong... focus on money, covetousness: worship vs. money (money was their god).

Often assume Jesus was angry (and may have been; he was at other times [Mk. 3:5]), but that's not what it says here....



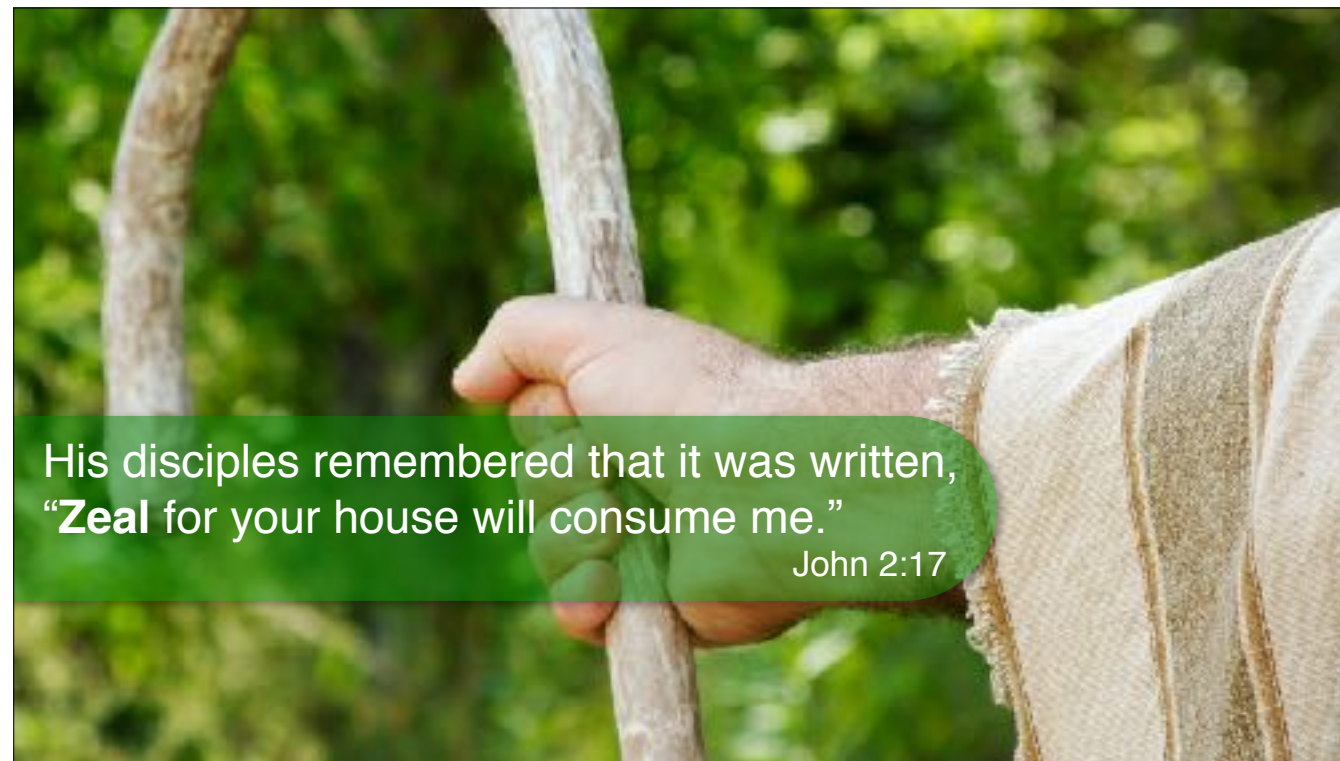
His disciples remembered that it was written,
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John 2:17

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Matthew 21:12-13: And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, “**It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.**”



His disciples remembered that it was written,
“**Zeal** for your house will consume me.”
John 2:17

It was zeal! not anger.

Jesus is taking a stand for what is right, for righteousness, and for His Father.

Meek: cast them out (power), but under control (zeal). Focus on helping them to see they are in sin, stop the sinning.



Are you meek? gentle?

Am I a well trained disciple of Jesus?

Am I strong in the strength of my Lord?

Do I use my strength's under God's control to accomplish His will?



What happens when I am not meek because I am still untrained and willful?

Always fighting against God and his will: constant struggle between His will and my will.

View God and His law as a hindrance, keeping me from what I want to do.



Frustration, confusion

My strength will be used to fight God, not help Him.



What happens when I am not meek because I am broken? (Timid, weak)

Always feel defeated, won't use the strength, gifts that God has given to me.

Depressed, feel useless, purposeless.

an unimportant disciple who doesn't know how to stand for right and fight against wrong.



God seems absent, I feel forsaken.

Inactive

I will not use the strength God has given me in His service.



What happens when I am meek (gentle) before God?

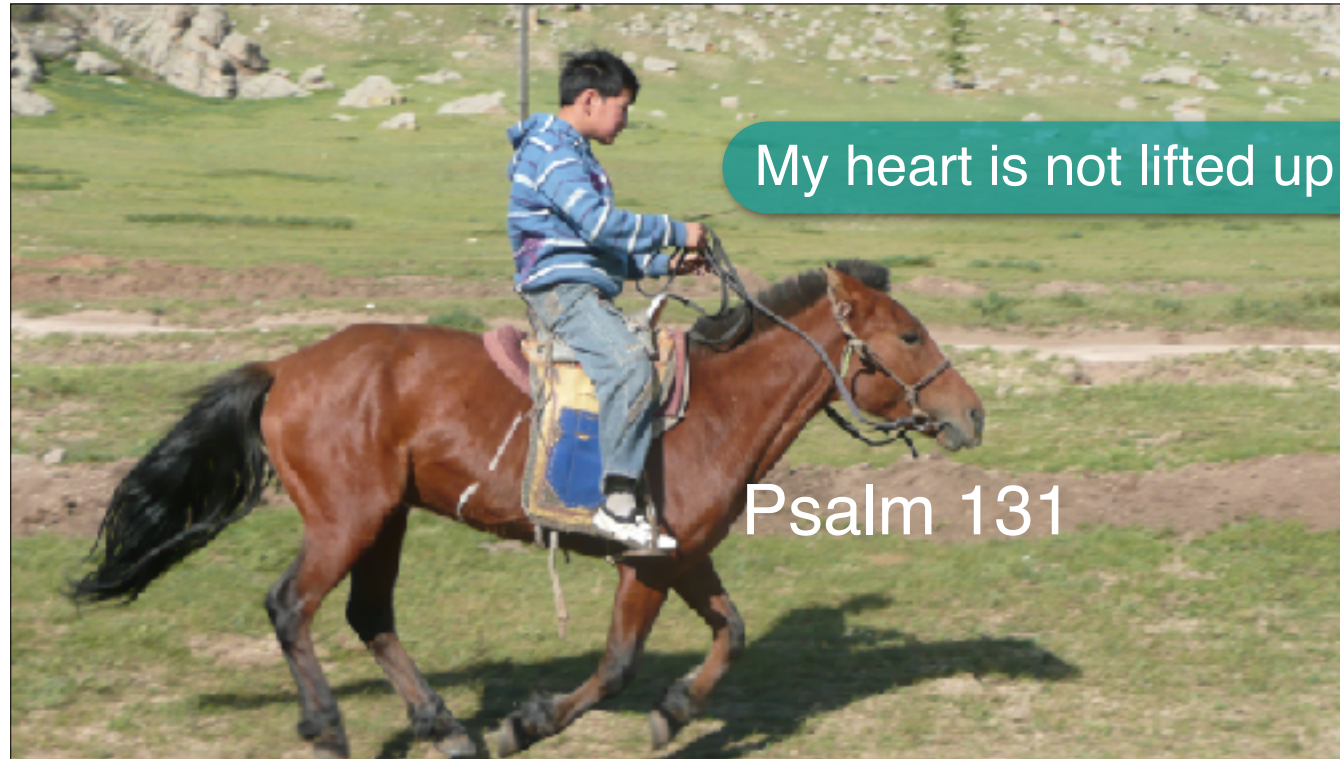
All the strength that I have I use under His guidance and direction to accomplish His purpose.

Peaceful, willing acceptance of being used by Him, trusting in Him.



Psalms 131:1-3: Of David.

1 O Jehovah, my heart is not lifted up;
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.



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My eyes are not raised too high

Psalm 131

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I have **calmed** and **quieted** my soul

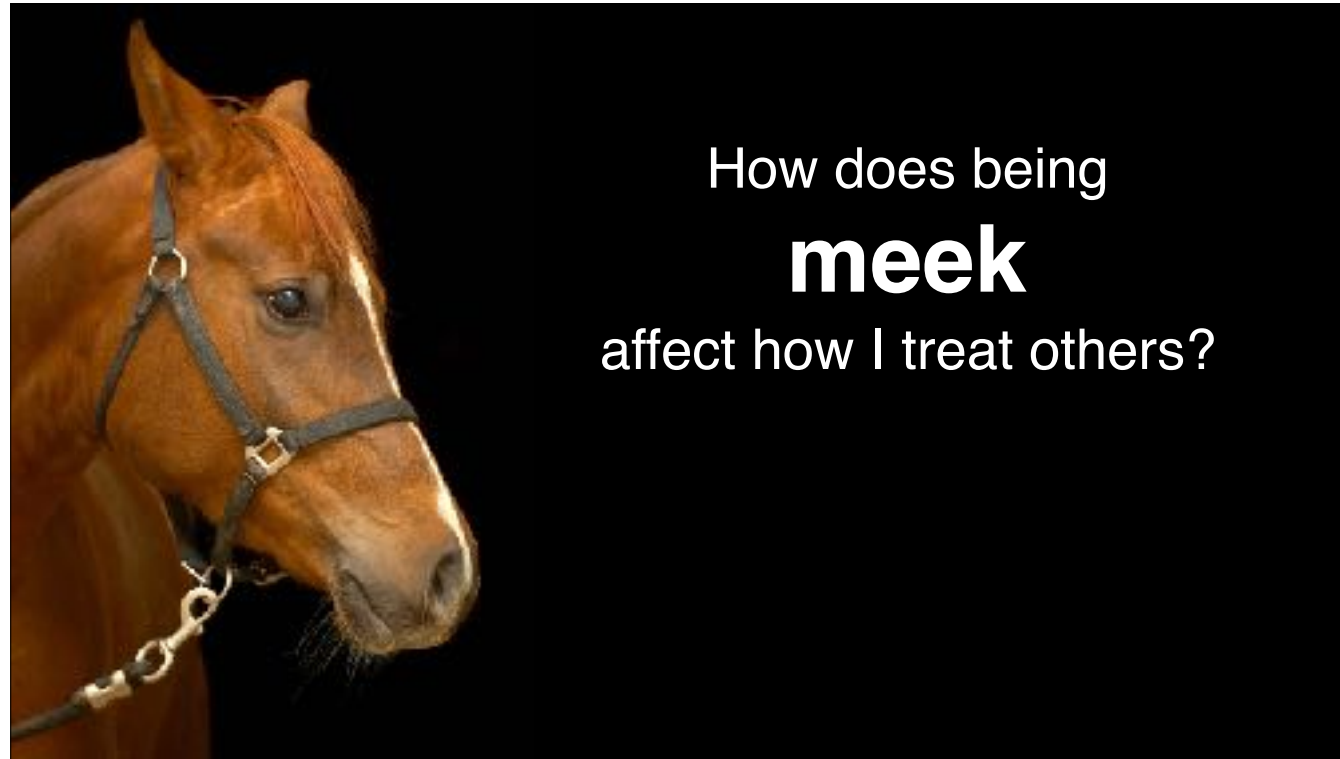
Psalm 131

2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
like a weaned child is my soul within me.



3 O Israel, hope in the Lord
from this time forth and forevermore

hope = wait expectantly.



What does meekness mean about how I treat other people?

When they have wronged me?

When they rebuke me?

When they challenge me, question my faith?

When they belittle me?



2 Timothy 1:7: for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control (discipline, sound mind).

governed by fear (weak, timid, untrained, broken horse), I fail to stand when my Father would have me to stand.



for God gave us a spirit
not of fear but of **power**
and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7

power, love, self-control: when mistreated... in love I care about them; power: stand for what is right; self-control: not governed by my “hurt” emotions; or anger, but doing what is right.



a **gentle** and
quiet spirit

1 Peter 3:4

1 Peter 3:4: let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

Meekness is beautiful in God's eyes.

It should describe our spirit (every aspect of how we think and live).



What a contrast to the untamed, willful disciple (horse).

Contrary to anger, violence, outbursts, complaining, murmuring.

I'm going to do what I want to do



1 Peter 3:15: but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Not ramming our own opinions, traditions on others. Not harshly mocking.

Kindness which points to the reason and truth.



Difficult to answer those who challenge us in a way that honors Father and respects the challenger.

Paul's struggle

1 Corinthians 1:23: but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

We will be opposed and questioned.



Preach Christ crucified — but not easy...

1 Corinthians 2:3-5: And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4 and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.



Do you hear meekness?

It was not about Paul... It is always about Jesus and doing what God would have me to do. Point to the power of God, not self.



Focus is not on me, but Him.

Refuse to push own opinions, cherished traditions

Not mock them for questioning me, or God.



Don't retaliate or threaten.

Prayer

With kindness, point to reasons and truth of our faith.



Galatians 6:1: Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Don't drive those in sin to despair and discouragement (hopelessness).

Set on feet with a determination to do better, the expectation he will do better.



Meek = strength under control

> God's power in me, under His control (Rowdy!).

Earnheart: It's a choice.

Endure mistreatment patiently (not about self-defense).

Not passive about evil

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Are You Under Control? (part 1)

Matthew 5:5

Synopsis: Meekness is strength under control. It is reflected in my relationship with God and with other people.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."