

Week 8 GENTLENESS May 23 Hospers, May 30 Orange City

Scripture

- Psalm 23:1-3; Psalm 103:13-14; Isaiah 40:11
- Hosea 11:1-11
- Matthew 11:28-30
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- 1 Peter 2:20-25

Sermon Discussion Questions Luke 18:9-17; Matthew 11:28-30

- To what degree do you see gentleness as weakness or timidity? How would you distinguish between gentleness and timidity?
- In what ways does culture align or not align itself with gentleness?
- What are the reasons why people are so often not gentle toward others? When do you personally find it most difficult to exercise gentleness to others, and why?
- How do fear and pride impact capacity for gentleness?
- Where and in whom have you seen Christian gentleness displayed and practiced?
- In what ways is God inviting you to exercise greater gentleness?

Reflection/Application Questions

- In what ways has God been gentle with you? How have you experienced His gentleness?
- When have other Christians treated you with motherly gentleness or fatherly care? How did you respond to their love and concern?
- What aspects of gentleness would you like to develop in yourself?
- For those around you that require time, energy, and vulnerability, how could you express gentleness to those people?
- Where and when are you tempted to *not* be gentle?
- When has the Holy Spirit prompted you to be gentle when you didn't want to be, and with what results?

CULTIVATE:

- Think of people who could use gentleness from you. Ask the Lord to give and fill you with gentleness toward those people. Ask the Lord to show you specific ways to minister to them this week...and with the Spirit's power, follow through.
- Read Proverbs 15:4 daily. Consider how a gentle tongue can bring healing to others. Contact at least one person every day this week to share words of encouragement and affirmation. Pray for that person that God would use your words for healing in his or her life.
- In a world that sees power as external, it is difficult to live in the humility and gentleness of Christ. Journal or write a letter to God telling him about any pride, selfish ambition, envy, bitterness. Tell God specifically how you would like for Him to replace earthly wisdom with the gentle and humble wisdom from above. Describe what it would look like in your life. End your time with thanksgiving for the harvest of gentleness He is producing in you.

Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSQsp3_88h8