

EXERCISE:

Study the life and character of Moses.



Ex chapters 1,2,3



Ex chapters 4,5,6



Ex chapters 12,19



Ex chapters 32,33,34

What can you learn from Moses?

Read the stories and describe how Moses became a meek man.

Is anything said about the character of Moses?

Why does Moses struggle so much with the calling God gives him at the burning bush?

Why do the Israelites eventually follow Moses?

Describe what you have learned about the way in which Moses and God related to one another.

What do you learn from Moses for your own life?



1 Pet 3:13-17

Read Peter's instructions to the disciples and now apply it to your own life.

Ask yourself these four questions:

1. Can I find a word from God for my own life in this text?
2. Is there a promise from God the Father for my life in it?
3. Is Jesus asking me to apply anything?
4. Make a decision to do something about it and ask Jesus to help you with this.

Going deeper

In Matt 5:5 Jesus provides us with an important seed for Kingdom of God culture. He tells his disciples that the meek will inherit the earth, just as he demonstrated to them. Meekness is the culture where within the Kingdom of God can bear much fruit.

Moses, the meekest man on earth




Num 12:3



Ex 2:11-15

We see two phases in the life of Moses. The first phase is that he receives power because he grew up as the son of a king in the courts of the Egyptian Pharaoh. Yet he uses his power somewhat foolishly. He killed an Egyptian slave driver in order to save his countryman. This was however not appreciated and led to him having to flee Egypt. He was therefore no longer able to help his people.

Moses wanted to bring his people's suffering to an end but tried to do so in his own wisdom and might.

 *Ex 2:23-25, Ex 3:1-10*

The second phase started after Moses had spent 40 years in the desert. God called Moses. He wanted to set his people free from captivity and chose Moses for this task. Moses knew that he was not suitable for this as he had already failed once. But now it was God's timing instead of Moses' timing. Moses needed to trust in God completely and not rely on his own strength if he wanted to stand up for his people and defend them against injustice.

How does Moses express his trust in God?



Ex 14:1-4, 9-18,26,27



Ex 24:1-3,9-11



Num 12:1-13

Kindness or meekness is the opposite of self-importance or self-affirmation. It arises from trust in God's goodness and the knowledge that He reigns over every situation and circumstance. A friendly person is not focussed on themselves.

Peter, the disciple Jesus chose



Matt 16:15-19



Matt 16:23



Matt 26:69-74



John 21:15-19

Peter is a man who speaks and acts without hesitation. He is the first to say that Jesus is the Son of God, but is just as quick to say that Jesus must not die on a cross. And when the heat is turned up, he even says he does not know Jesus. Peter likes to do things his own way yet he is a passionate follower of Jesus. Through his experience of denying Jesus he becomes meek. He does not walk away from Jesus when Jesus appears on the beach following His resurrection. Peter walks straight up to him despite his own shame at having denied him.



Acts 2:14,37

We see that Peter is used by God to proclaim the gospel despite his difficult and shameful experience. Something which he excelled at in his own strength, being a good talker, had landed him in trouble. But having become a broken man, the very same lips became a blessing for many people. Peter had turned into a meek man.

Compare the advice given by Peter and Jesus. What are the similarities?



1 Pet 3:13-17

Now compare this with the words of Jesus.



Matt 5:3-10

What does Jesus say about the meek?



Matt 11:29




Matt 21:5

The meekness Jesus shows God is recognising God as good and not speaking against Him. He does not falter even if there is opposition, contradiction or strong resistance arises. Jesus does not anger quickly and patiently bears his suffering. You need courage to do this.

The Holy Spirit in us.

 Gal 5:22,23

As we learned in previous lessons about the Holy Spirit, He is the one who gives us God's nature. Kindness is one of the nine fruits of the Spirit.


 Gal 5:16-18


In order to develop this fruit in your life you need to make a choice, just like Peter and Moses did; the choice to be led by the Holy Spirit. No longer doing what you want to do, but rather what the Holy Spirit shows you in the word of God. This sets you free and releases the kindness of God in you.

Jesus culture

Jesus was meek. He set us that example. Jesus followed the path God had for him and, following the evens on the cross, received his inheritance. Eternal life and access to eternal life for all those who follow him. What an inheritance.

Just as in the case of Jesus, the meek reach the end of their own ability but are then able to look to the Father for all they need. They do not resolve their problems in their own strength. This leads to them inheriting the earth.

 Ps 37:11,22,29,34


 Acts 1:8


Jesus set this example in Israel. Many people in Israel then followed this example. The commission for the disciples stretched much further than Israel. The command is to go to the ends of the earth.

Remember that the kingdom of God is not a country but a spiritual realm? The realm in which people trust God.

Meek disciples are needed all over the world to win people for this kingdom.

EXERCISE

 Try taking a look at yourself and think about which areas you are managing in your own strength. Try and find out if there are areas over which you want to maintain control.

 Discuss with your mentor which areas are strongly under your own control and which steps you are going to take to hand this over to God. Pray together and ask for the Holy Spirit to do His work in these areas.