

## Love is Kind

### Love Beyond Measure

The expansion of this love soon reveals itself as an expansion of our perspective. As love grows richer, we begin to see the world differently.

When love abounds, we see more deeply. We do not judge people or situations easily or make hasty conclusions. We look beyond the surface and come to see what lies beneath and the stories around it. Love always calls for depth.

When love is abundant, we see from a higher perspective. This perspective is the view of God's sovereignty. When we begin to see life and events from heaven's vantage point, we finally come to perceive the true reality of things. The most honest way of seeing is to see through God's eyes.

When love is abundant, we see broadly. We are no longer confined to our own interests, our own standards, or our own standpoint. We move beyond a narrow field of vision and learn God's wide perspective – His vast and deep embrace. Love breaks down boundaries and expands our sight.

When love is abundant, we see far ahead. We are not bound by immediate outcomes or momentary losses but interpret today from the perspective of eternity. When we see through eternal lens, we come to rediscover the true value of many things.

When love is abundant, we come to see the world with a perspective that is deep, high, wide, and long. And that perspective ultimately becomes the power that overcomes the world. "May this be a year filled with that love!" May this be the prayer for our small group and our church, for our families and our nation.

### 「 Introduction 」

Biblical meekness does not simply mean having a warm or gentle personality. The Greek word 'praus(πραῦς)' refers to "a wild horse that has been tamed and brought under its master's control." In other words, meekness is not weakness or lack of strength, but strong power and energy placed under the control of the Holy Spirit as 'disciplined strength'. True meekness, the second attribute of love, is taking the anger and impulsiveness within us, and even our vision and passion, and submitting them un-der the sovereignty of God.

### 「 The meekness of Moses 」

**Numbers 12:3** "Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth."

**1) Silence in the face of slander:** When Aaron and Miriam challenged Moses' authority and spoke against him, Moses did not defend himself or fight back. **Moses' specialty was falling facedown**(submission). Whenever there was slander, false accusation, or challenges to his authority, he fell facedown before God.

### 9 sins of Israel (Numbers 10:11-25:18)

	Contents	Punishment	Leader's Response	God's Grace
11:1-3	The people complain with evil words	Fire consumes outer parts of the camp	Prays to God	God answers
11:4-35	Complain about food out of strong craving	A great plague breaks out	Goes before God	God provides Moses with helpers
12:1-6	Aaron & Miriam challenge Moses's authority	Leprosy on Miriam	Meek silence (pray quietly)	God upholds Moses's authority
13:1-14:38	12 spies; the people complain and rebel	40 years in the wilderness	Falls facedown; intercession	God gives a chance to the next generation
16:1-40	Korah, Dathan, and others rebel	Judgement falls on them (ground & fire)	Falls facedown; intercession	God answers and upholds Moses
16:41-50	The people rebel after Korah's incident	A plague breaks out	Moses & Aaron's incense (intercession)	God stops the plague
20:2-13	Complain about lack of water; Moses disobeys	Moses & Aaron can't enter Canaan	Falls facedown at the tent of meeting	God provides water out of the rock
21:4-10	Complain when going around the land of Edom	Fiery serpents	Prays to God	God provides the bronze serpent
25:1-18	Idolatry with Moabite women	Judgment on all from Baal of Peor	Phinehas's intercession	God who is jealous for His people

**2) Intercessory Prayer:** he rather cried out to God and earnestly prayed for the restoration of those who had attacked him.

**3) Pause and Obedience:** When God told him to stop just before entering Canaan—the goal to which he had devoted his entire life—Moses laid down his own vision and longing under God's control. He stopped on Mount Nebo and obeyed.

### Sharing question

The Scripture testifies that Moses was "very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth." His meekness was revealed through silence, prayer, and pause/obedience. Among these three, which do you sense is most needed in your life right now?

## 「 The meekness of David 」

**1) A Heart That Does Not Seek Revenge:** When King Saul hurled a spear at him to kill him, David did not pick it up and throw it back. Even in the face of provocation and impulse, he showed meekness by remaining steady and preserving the relationship.

**1 Samuel 24:4-5** And the men of David said to him, “Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, ‘Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.’” Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. And afterward David’s heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.

**2) A Strength That Builds Community:** Meekness is a power that nurtures people and builds community. During his wilderness years, David had the distressed, the bitter, and the indebted around him, and this community eventually grew into an army for God.

**1 Samuel 22:1-2** David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father’s house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

**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.

**2 Samuel 22:36** You have given me the shield of your salvation, and your gentleness made me great.

## 「 The meekness and humility of Jesus Christ 」

The only way we can learn meekness is by becoming more like Jesus.

**Matthew 11:29** 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.

- 1) Jesus did not cry out loudly, but instead showed thoughtful care that does not break a bruised reed and love that does not quench a faintly burning wick. (Isaiah 42:2-3)
- 2) Jesus accepted the adulterous woman, approached first the Samaritan woman, stayed in Zacchaeus’s house, and visited Lazarus’s tomb.
- 3) Jesus had the power to come down from the cross but strictly restricted Himself under the will of God to save humanity.

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### Sharing questions

1. Tamed Strength: Are there areas in yourself that remain untamed like a wild horse (anger, stubbornness, or unrestrained ambition)? Let us share how we could bring these under God’s control.
2. Avoiding the Spear: When someone slandered or attacked(spear) you, how did you respond? Let us share how we could not throw back the spear like David and the kind of faith needed to respond in meekness.

## 「 Let us pray together 」

Gentleness is not weakness. It is stronger than anything. Hence, the gentle will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). God tells us that love is meek. Let us pray together that our hearts become meek like Jesus as good vessels before God, so that we may bring life and restore people in the year ahead.