



# MELCHIZEDEK HOUSE OF PRAYER

HIS PASSION OUR END-TIME HOPE SERIES

HIS MEEKNESS OUR STRENGTH

MAY 1, 2009

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## *His Meekness Our Strength*

### I. WHAT IS MEEKNESS?

- A. The Hebrew word translated "meekness" is *anav* or *anaw*, meaning "depressed (figuratively), in mind (gentle) or circumstances (needy, especially saintly): humble, lowly, meek, poor" (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, #6035). The translation depends upon the context in which it appears. The *Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* adds, "afflicted, miserable . . . ; commonly with the added notion of a lowly, pious, and modest mind, which prefers to bear injuries rather than return them" (p. 643). The *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* indicates why this word is so difficult to express as a single term: "anaw expresses the intended outcome of affliction" (p. 1651).
- B. David testified to the meek and gentle heart of God after being delivered from the hand of all his enemies. No longer a shepherd boy, but a king, David pointed to the secret of his success: "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, **Your gentleness has made me great**" (Psalm 18:35, emphasis added). The strength of God's character is seen in His great humility and meekness.

*Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by loving kindness he upholds his throne. (Proverbs 20:28)*

- C. Meekness is power under control. It is the restraint of power for the accomplishment of a higher cause. This is not to be confused with weakness. Weakness is the absence of strength and power, a complete lack of options. Meekness is possessing power, but only appropriating it as would be driven by Godliness.

### II. THE DICOTOMY OF TWO

*Mark 14:1-10*

#### A. Judas Iscariot - A man of utility

1. Efficiency, utility. If I invest I should receive the corresponding payoff.
2. April 28, 2009 Progressive Christian Leader Mobilizes Hundreds to End Poverty

Having entered a new political era, hundreds of progressive Christians have begun a major mobilization to end poverty with the belief that their time has come to reap what they've sown. "We have friends now in high places," the Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners and perhaps the nation's best-known progressive Christian leader, told over 1,000 people on Monday.

Antiseptic and correct but not fragrant.

We like religion of convenience, with our Sunday morning services & Bible studies; our clean environments and unsoiled lives.

It is one thing to have that fragrance of Christ formed in us through identification with Him, and quite another to have the religion of convenience, which is also the religion of betrayal. If our Christianity costs nothing, and is convenient, we are already one with Judas.

#### **B. Mary of Bethany –Lavish outpouring**

1. Watchman Nee said, “The principle of waste is the principle of power and we are powerless because we have ‘played it close to the vest’”
2. Where there is extravagance for Christ’s sake there will be corresponding opposition.
3. Story with Dad on mountain

### **III. MEEKNESS-OPENING THE REALM OF REVELATION**

*To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ. Ephesians 3:8*

1. We know that one of the deceptions of the Last Days is false apostles and false prophets. Even now, it is becoming popular where everybody seems to be a prophet today, or even an apostle. They are also quite clever as they have studied and know how to appropriate Paul’s counsel and advice, and know when to apply it, and mediate over church issues, etc. Is that, however, the foundational man upon whom the church is built? If the man is the thing in himself, then it is more than his knowledge of church administration, or founding a fellowship. It is his very life; it is his character; it is his knowledge of God; it is what he communicates as one who comes to us out of God’s own presence. This statement, ‘the very least of all saints’ is not Paul being self-deferring, but Paul’s actual, stricken, heartfelt consciousness of how he sees himself before God.
2. It is a remarkable irony that the deeper we grow in the knowledge of God, the more we see ourselves as less. Instead of becoming more exalted by the increase of our knowledge of God, we see how abased and pitiful we really are. It is a contradiction and a paradox, only to be found in the church. Authentic meekness or humility is not something that one can learn, or pick up at school, or take to oneself, but the work of God out of a relationship with Him. It is the revelation of God as He is, and the depths of God, that bring a man to this kind of awareness of his own self.