

Study Notes on Gentleness - based on James Mondon's talk

1. Gentle, Jesus meek and mild... which of the three adjectives are you happy to apply to Jesus?
2. To what extent do you share James' observation that gentleness is often regarded as a weak character trait rather than a strength?
3. Gentleness is commended in the New Testament see: 2 Corinthians 10:1; Galatians 5:23; Philippians 4:5; Colossians 3:12; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Peter 3:15
4. See Proverbs 15:1 and Proverbs 25:15. Comment on the apparent effectiveness of gentleness.
5. See Matthew 11:29. Reflect on those times when church has greater expectations of Christians than Jesus does.
6. How do you react to James' assertion that you need strength in order to be gentle?
7. Can you recall and share a situation in which gentleness might have been a better approach than the one you adopted?
8. James referred to a parenting book and then also the ministry of Jesus, in which the first approach to helping people to know that they are loved, called, capable, and responsible for their own actions is gentleness i.e. helping the child or whoever we are engaging with to feel 'I am safe with you.' Can we share experiences of responding well to people with whom we have felt safe, or perhaps our experience in helping others feel safe with us?

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