Study Guide: Meekness Is Not Weakness

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

Overview and Key Themes

This study guide explores the biblical teachings on humility, self-sufficiency, and spiritual reliance as presented in the sermon "Meekness is Not Weakness." Many people in modern society are raised to be independent and self-reliant. However, true biblical humility requires setting aside pride, recognizing human helplessness without God, and learning to depend on Him and fellow believers daily.

Key themes covered in this study guide include:

- **True Humility vs. Pride**: Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less. Pride separates people from God, while humility brings them closer to Him.
- **Daily Reliance on God**: Like the Israelites receiving manna in the wilderness, believers are called to trust God one day at a time rather than relying solely on their own strength.
- **Scriptural Commands to Walk Humbly**: God requires believers to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him (Micah 6:8). He opposes the proud but gives greater grace to the humble (James 4:6).
- **Practical Expressions of Humility**: Admitting sin without making excuses, serving others without seeking credit, yielding personal plans to God's will, and asking for help when needed.
- **Resisting Spiritual Attacks**: Using the Word of God, staying active in Christian fellowship, remaining vigilant, and engaging in persistent prayer to stand firm against temptation.

Short-Answer Quiz

Directions: Answer each of the following ten questions based on the sermon transcript. Write your answers separately after completing the quiz.

1. As a six-year-old child in 1953, the speaker started his first job delivering newspapers and earning his own money. How did his parents raise him and his brothers to handle their finances and responsibilities? What long-term personal struggle with God did this extreme self-sufficiency create for him later in life?
2. When the speaker's car broke down right before a planned fishing trip, what was his initial reaction? How did God remind him of the story of the Israelites in the desert to change his attitude? What happened over the following two and a half weeks as a result?

3. According to the sermon, how does the Bible define true humility compared to the world's view of it? Why does the speaker state that true humility is definitely not the typical "American way"?
4. In Micah 6:8, what three specific things does the Lord require of believers? How does the speaker interpret walking humbly with God as a key to building a personal relationship with Him?
5. What warning does James 4:6 give regarding God's reaction to proud people versus humble people? How does the speaker express his desire regarding this verse, and what warning does he give about proud attitudes?
6. How did King Nebuchadnezzar from Daniel 4 serve as a scriptural example of what happens when a person lacks humility? What lesson does the speaker draw from Nebuchadnezzar's story about how God deals with human pride?
7. Explain the statement: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less." How does this definition connect to 1 Peter 5:6 and 1 Samuel 16:7 when Samuel was choosing a new king?
8. According to the message, what key strategy did Jesus Christ use in Matthew 4 to resist the temptations of the devil in the wilderness? How can modern believers apply this same principle when facing spiritual attacks or evil influences?
9. Why does the speaker encourage Christians to stay involved in church fellowship, accountability, and persistent prayer based on Hebrews 10:24–25 and Philippians 4:6–7? How do these practices help believers resist Satan's schemes?
10. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, what conditions must God's people meet for Him to hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land? Why does the speaker emphasize that Christians should continue praying for government leaders, even those who are non-Christians?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The speaker's parents raised him and his brothers to be very independent, leading him to work paper routes, shovel snow, collect bottles, and save money for his own bicycle at age six. This strong sense of self-sufficiency made it difficult for him to be humble, creating a lifelong struggle between relying on himself and fully trusting in God.
2. When his car broke down, the speaker initially complained and panicked before calming down to ask God for guidance. God brought to mind how He provided manna to the Israelites one day at a time, encouraging the speaker to trust Him daily. Over the next two and a half weeks, God provided nine or ten different people to lend him a car or offer rides to fulfill all his daily commitments.

3. True humility is seeing ourselves as we truly are—fallen into sin and completely helpless without our Heavenly Father. It involves a continued emphasis on godliness, genuine gratitude, and placing complete trust in the wisdom and salvation of God. The speaker explains this is not the typical "American way" because society encourages individuals to rely entirely on themselves for everything they need or want.

4. Micah 6:8 states that the Lord requires believers to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. The speaker interprets walking humbly with God as evidence that He desires a deep, personal relationship with us. It shows that He wants believers to talk to Him, listen to Him, spend time with Him, and live in awe of Him daily.

5. James 4:6 teaches that God resists and opposes the proud, but He gives greater grace to the humble. The speaker emphasizes that he never wants to be opposed or resisted by God, so he actively works on practicing genuine humility. He also warns that believers must be careful not to become proud of being humble, as that creates its own spiritual trap.

6. King Nebuchadnezzar refused to be humble, so God directly dealt with his arrogance and brought him down. The speaker uses this Old Testament example to show that if individuals do not address their own pride, God Himself will step in and deal with them. It serves as a clear warning that pride leads directly to dishonor and destruction.

7. This phrase means that humility does not require a person to loathe or degrade themselves, but rather to shift their focus away from their own selfish desires and onto God and others. Under 1 Peter 5:6, believers recognize who God is and yield to His mighty hand. In 1 Samuel 16:7, God demonstrates this principle by ignoring outward physical appearance and looking directly at the condition of a person's heart.

8. When Jesus Christ was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He resisted every temptation by quoting directly from the written Word of God. Believers can apply this principle by studying, memorizing, and filling their minds with Scripture to stand firm against evil influences. Using God's active and living Word gives believers the spiritual authority needed to make the devil flee.

9. Staying involved in regular church fellowship and accountability provides encouragement, mutual prayer, and spiritual growth through solid biblical teaching. Persistent prayer keeps believers aligned with God's heart, bringing His peace to guard their hearts and minds against Satan's attacks. Together, these spiritual habits ensure believers do not fight battles alone or fall into the enemy's traps.

10. For God to forgive sin and heal the land, His people must humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. The speaker stresses that prayer and humility remain extremely powerful tools for believers today. Therefore, Christians

must continue praying faithfully for all government leaders and public officials, regardless of their political background or spiritual standing.

Essay Format Questions

Directions: Deepen your understanding of the text by writing extended responses (3–5 paragraphs each) for the following prompts. Support your answers with specific examples and scripture references mentioned in the study guide.

1. **Self-Sufficiency vs. God-Reliance**: Compare and contrast the cultural mindset of self-reliance with the biblical requirement of humility. How can early childhood training in independence create spiritual hurdles, and what practical steps can a Christian take to transition from relying on self to depending on God?
2. **The Nature of Spiritual Victory**: Analyze how Jesus Christ resisted Satan in the wilderness in Matthew 4. Explain how modern believers can use the Word of God, Christian fellowship, and persistent prayer as spiritual weapons to overcome temptation and maintain humility.
3. **Biblical Leadership and Heart Inspection**: Using 1 Samuel 16:7 and Daniel 4, discuss how God evaluates human character versus how society evaluates human success. What does Nebuchadnezzar's downfall teach about pride, and what does David's selection teach about the qualities God values in a leader's heart?
4. **Community and Interdependence**: Describe the speaker's car breakdown experience and how it illustrated the concept of mutual accountability and community within the church. Why is asking others for help an act of humility, and how does it foster stronger relationships among believers?
5. **The Relationship Between Humility and Grace**: Examine James 4:6–10 and Proverbs 3:5–6. How do humility, obedience, and repentance open the door for God's "greater grace" in a believer's daily life, and why is pride considered the root of spiritual destruction?

Comprehensive Glossary

- **Accountability**: The willingness to allow trusted Christian leaders and fellow believers to examine one's life, offer correction, and ensure one is living according to God's Word.
- **Covenant**: A solemn, binding agreement made between God and His people, built upon His promises and laws.
- **Exalt**: To raise someone to a higher rank, honor, or power. Scripture teaches that God will exalt those who humble themselves in His presence.

- **Fellowship**: The act of gathering together with other Christian believers to share meals, encourage one another, pray, and study the Bible.
- **Gentleness**: A quiet, humble, and considerate attitude toward others, flowing from a heart that yields to God's authority.
- **Grace**: God's unmerited favor, strength, and blessing given to believers. "Greater grace" refers to the abundant spiritual help God provides to those who walk in humility.
- **Haughty**: Disdainfully proud, arrogant, or snobbish; having an exaggerated sense of self-importance that leads to destruction.
- **Humility**: A godly virtue characterized by genuine gratitude, a modest view of oneself, freedom from arrogance, and absolute reliance on the wisdom and salvation of God.
- **Longsuffering**: Patient endurance and forbearance when dealing with difficult people, trials, or suffering over a long period.
- **Meekness**: Spiritual strength under control; a humble and submissive heart toward God that refuses to be self-assertive or retaliatory.
- **Obedience**: The act of submitting to God's laws, commands, and authority out of love and respect for Him.
- **Pride**: An inflated view of one's own importance, abilities, or independence that excludes God, separates individuals from Him, and leads to spiritual failure.
- **Repentance**: A sincere turning away from sin, accompanied by grief over wrongdoing and a desire to seek God's forgiveness and righteousness.
- **Self-Sufficiency**: The belief or attitude that one can supply all of one's own needs without relying on God or asking help from others.
- **Sovereignty**: God's supreme authority, absolute power, and complete rule over all creation and human events.

Section on Greek Vocabulary

A thorough review of the provided source transcript indicates that **no original Greek words** (such as *tapeinophrosune* for humility or agape for love) were explicitly spoken, transliterated, or defined during this message.[^1] The sermon relied exclusively on English translations of the Old and New Testament Scriptures (such as the NKJV and NASB).

[^1]: Source Context check confirmed: The speaker quoted English Scripture verses directly (e.g., James 4, Philippians 2, 1 Peter 5) without citing the underlying Greek root words.