

The Terrible Meek

Jack Wright, in "Herald of Holiness"

You can see them in every church: The little lady who changes buses three times in the rain to come to prayer meeting. The old gentleman who arrives early on Sunday morning with prayers for the preacher and flowers for the altar. They belong to that class of persons I call "the terrible meek." For these people combine a great personal humility with unshakable convictions.

The world says, "Blessed are the strong." And one tyrant boasted, "God is on the side of big battalions." What could have seemed more hopeless than Jesus and His little band of followers preaching, "The meek . . . shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5)?

To Mr. Average Citizen of the day, logic would seem to decree, "Put your faith in Rome. Its power is unbeatable." But the sun has gone down on the Roman Empire. Now its glory is to be seen only in history books with gloomy titles like *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Yet the message that Christ preached has spread from the obscurity of the back yard of the Roman Empire to the four corners of the globe. The sun never sets on the Christian empire—not now or ever.

The Greeks said that such talk was foolishness. The Greeks had a passion for the use of the mind. A Greek said that if you sailed out of Spain and kept to one latitude, you would come at last to land—1700 years before Columbus. A Greek said the earth went around the sun—sixteen centuries before Copernicus thought of it. The Greeks weren't to be deceived by such ridiculous meek talk." They said, "Blessed are they with big brains and impressive IQ's." But today you can hunt goats on the ruins of the Parthenon and the temple of their false goddess Athena.

The principle is, I suppose, "Don't judge the importance of a thing by the noise it makes." A certain Roman emperor once erected a triumphal arch in token of the fact that the last Christian had been swept off the earth. That was, to be mild, presumptuous.

Outwardly it may seem that the world is winning. Daniel is in the lions' den; the Hebrew children are in the fiery furnace; Paul is in prison; and Jesus is on the Cross. But when the midnight hours are past and dawn sweeps away the night, Daniel is in the palace, the Hebrew children are safe, and Paul is in heaven with Jesus.

Even today that fox Khrushchev threatens to "bury us." And somehow nervous politicians feel that if we could just invent a bigger rocket we would be safe. They would inscribe on our coins: "In Rocket Thrust We Trust." But as for me, I'll put my faith in that militant minority—"the terrible meek" and their God. I feel that when it's all over, they will come out on top. For Jesus, who cannot lie, said, "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5).

HOW TO WIN THEM

In the winning of souls the qualities of the heart are more important than the qualities of the head. Men and women are not won to a saving knowledge of Christ by argument or controversy. They are won only by prayer and love. In order to bring our friends to Christ, therefore, we do not have to be learned or eloquent. To be so is not possible to everyone. But the qualities that are necessary are those every Christian can and should possess—love for God and man, knowledge of the Word, zeal for the cause of Christ, patience and tact. If we are lacking in any of these, let us seek the help of God's Holy Spirit in whatever may be needful the better to fit us to be "fishers of men."—Editorial Note in *Christian Observer*.

THE LAVISHNESS OF LOVE

by James F. Gregory

True love always follows the instinct of the heart, undeterred by the cold calculations that would impose restraint upon its activities. "She hath done what she could," said Jesus of the woman who broke the alabaster box of ointment and poured it upon Jesus' head. She gave to the limit of her capacity with a lavishness which would keep nothing back.

Love, and love for Christ, in particular, refuses to be hampered by paltry considerations of cost or selfish motive. This quality is the choicest of God's gifts to us, and the extent to which we possess this gift is the extent also to which we become like God. The lavishness of God's love is shown forth in the life of our Lord Jesus, and supremely in His death on the cross where we see the very heart of the Eternal as a heart of immeasurable love, a heart that reaches to the uttermost for man's redemption.

"Immortal love, forever full,

Forever flowing free,

Forever shared, forever whole,

A never-ebbing sea."

It is this experience of God's own generous love in Christ that kindles in the human heart a love to God and one's fellows.

"Love so amazing, so divine,

Demands my soul, my life, my all."

The reckoning mind estimates the cost to the last cent. What it fails to understand is that the gift of salvation through Christ is something absolutely priceless, something which it is a sacrilege to attempt to estimate.

The complete surrender of a human heart to the Master will send forth an unchecked flow of love which will leave its fragrance wherever it goes. A heart captivated with the love that God has lavished upon men will in turn overflow with love, and say with David, "I will not make sacrifices unto the Lord of that which hath cost me nothing." Wherever men and women respond in love to Christ, we see that same lavish love that once won the approval of Jesus, "She hath done what she could."

—The Free Methodist

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TIGERS?

"The human race's prospects for survival were considerably better when we were defenseless against tigers than they are today, when we have become defenseless against ourselves.

—Arnold Toynbee, British historian

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