

FRUIT

of the *Spirit*

Sunday, October 4, 2020 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 8 | GENTLENESS

Multiple Scriptures

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

– Galatians 5:22-23

Our **POWER** is in Jesus

2 Timothy 1:7

Acts 1:8

Galatians 2:20

Romans 1:16

who gives us a **GENTLENESS**
that's not **WEAK**

meekness = power/strength under control 2 Timothy 2:25

humility = knowing your place Ephesians 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-11

Moses Numbers 12:3

and a **STRENGTH**
that's not **HARSH.**

like Jesus in attitude Matthew 11:27-30

like Jesus in action Matthew 12:15-21; Proverbs 15:1, 4; Ephesians 4:15



What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them Life Groups. The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a parallel passage of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

Welcome to Life Groups! We're studying the fruit that the Holy Spirit grows in our lives as we stay close to Jesus.

Getting Started

Getting to Know You: Part of our goal together is getting to know one another. *What is your favorite thing to do by yourself?*

Review your message notes and this week's Scripture. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

** This week's questions are adapted from:
Phyllis J. LePeau et al., Fruit of the Spirit: 48 Bible Studies for Individuals or
Groups (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013).*

Gentleness is not Weakness

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, look upon a little child." Jesus is often portrayed as gentle in poems, hymns, and paintings. Yet his "gentleness" seems limp, almost effeminate. His pale white skin and his delicate features make him seem soft, weak, retiring.

What a contrast to the Jesus of Scripture! In Matthew 21 we discover that there is strength in his gentleness and gentleness in his strength.

1. Why do you think people sometimes assume that a gentle person is also a weak person?
2. **Read Matthew 21:1–17.** What impact do you think the events in **verses 1–11** had on the disciples? On the crowd?
3. According to **verse 5**, the prophet Zechariah describes Jesus as gentle (**Zechariah 9:9**). How is his gentleness demonstrated in the way he approaches Jerusalem (**v. 5–11**)?
4. There is a sudden change of tone as Jesus enters the temple. What motivates Jesus' actions in **verses 12–13**?

Merchants and moneychangers set up their booths in the Court of the Gentiles in the Temple, filling it with their wares instead of allowing it to be filled with Gentiles who had come to worship God. The merchants sold sacrificial animals at high prices, taking advantage of those who had come long distances. The moneychangers exchanged all secular currency for Temple currency—the only kind of money the merchants would accept. They often deceived foreigners who didn't know the exchange rate. – *The Life Application Bible, note on Matthew 21:12*

5. How do Christ's actions in the temple contrast with the popular image of "gentle Jesus, meek and mild"?
6. In what kinds of situations is a firm, tough love more appropriate than a gentle response?
7. How is Christ's gentleness again demonstrated in his response to the blind, the lame, and the children (**v. 14–15**)?
8. The chief priests and the teachers of the law are "indignant" when they see the wonderful things Jesus does and when they hear the shouts of the children (**v. 15–16**). Why are the religious leaders threatened by these things?

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The words of the children, which echo those of the crowds (v. 9), come primarily from Psalm 118:25–26. *Son of David* is a messianic title that infuriated the religious leaders, especially since Jesus did works that were fitting for the Messiah. [They] feared that Jesus would win the support of the people and overthrow their religious system. – *New Bible Commentary: Revised*

- 9. How would you evaluate Christ’s response to their challenge (v. 16–17)? Is he confrontational? Gentle? Both?
- 10. What do you learn about gentleness as you observe Jesus throughout this passage?
- 11. In what ways do you struggle to have a gentleness that is not weak and a strength that is not harsh?

Pray

Ask God to develop the fruit of gentleness within you as you seek to follow the example of Jesus.

Try it This Week:

Based on what you have seen in Matthew 21, write a clear description and definition of gentleness. List the characteristics of Jesus that you see in this passage as preparation for creating this definition. Then reflect upon and jot down situations and relationships in which you would like to see the fruit of gentleness grow in you. For the next week make notes on the ways you are growing in gentleness.

Word Find for 2 Timothy 2:22-26 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

22 So **flee** youthful **passions** and **pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace**, along with those who **call** on the **Lord** from a **pure heart**.²³ Have **nothing** to do with **foolish, ignorant controversies**;

you **know** that they **breed quarrels**.²⁴ And the **Lord’s servant** must not be **quarrelsome** but **kind** to **everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil**,²⁵ **correcting his opponents** with **gentleness**. God may **perhaps grant** them **repentance leading to a knowledge** of the **truth**,²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

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