

## Branches Part 2

### Meekness

- I. Tonight, we're continuing our series on leadership.
  - a. So far we've learned...
    - i. Leadership is influence
    - ii. Our example is everything
    - iii. A leader is a thermostat not a thermometer
    - iv. The foundation for good leadership is Christ-likeness
      1. Christ-likeness demands excellence
  - b. We're going to be building our leadership model with five pillars, all on the foundation of Christ-likeness.
  - c. The first pillar of leadership we're going to talk about is meekness.
    - i. I bet you thought we were going to talk about a "winning spirit" or something like that!
- II. What is meekness?
  - a. Webster's defines meekness as "softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries; humility; resignation; submission to the divine will, without murmuring; opposed to pride and arrogance.
  - b. Meekness is NOT \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. It's controlled power, or "power-in-check".
  - c. Leadership carries influence, but meekness keeps us from using that influence in a \_\_\_\_\_ way.
  - d. Meekness is gentle.
    - i. The strongest people I know are also some of the most gentle.
- III. Meekness has nothing to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. We often think that we have to let it be known that we are the leader, or we've achieved a level of accomplishment or position.
    - i. That's not meekness, that's pride.
    - ii. Pride says, "Look at me" but meekness is humble and says, "\_\_\_\_\_".
  - b. Matthew 4:1-10 says, "Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup> For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread. But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup> and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot

on a stone. Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the LORD your God. Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, You must worship the LORD your God and serve only him."

- i. The devil challenged Jesus' deity (who He really was).
  - 1. "If you really are the son of God...
- ii. We're challenged in other ways.
  - 1. If you're a real man, then...
  - 2. If you're a real leader, then...
  - 3. Even David exercised meekness when he had every right and many opportunities to kill Saul.
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ is a strong tempter.
  - 1. When Jesus overcame this temptation, the devil left Him alone.

#### IV. Meekness lets God be our "governor".

- a. In our culture that celebrates doing everything our own way, having what we want when we want it, and striving to be our own boss, we often leave God out of the equation when making decisions or steering the course of our lives.
- b. Romans 8:14 says, "**For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.**"
  - i. God has a special place in His heart for those that let Him take the steering wheel of their lives.
    - 1. Romans calls them the sons (and I'm sure daughters) of God.
- c. God is God and we \_\_\_\_\_.
  - i. It's not enough to just try and build our little kingdom and then slap a "God tag" on it.
  - ii. We have to be willing to set aside our own plans and desires and let God steer the ship.
    - 1. Jesus knew the agony He was going to face, yet He said, "Not my will but yours Father".

#### V. Are you willing to be meek and humble?

- a. In leadership and in life?
  - i. Remember, you're leading by example, whether you have a leadership title or not.
- b. Will you trust God to govern your life?
- c. Pray/close