

None of us are born meek. We must develop meekness. We may find that we can be meek when dealing with peaceful people, but we may find it difficult to remain meek when confronted by proud individuals. This article will discuss some challenges we may have to overcome in order to develop the beautiful quality of meekness.

EXPRESSIONS EXPLAINED: Meekness. People who are meek are gentle when dealing with others and remain mild-tempered even when provoked. Humility. People who are humble are free of pride or arrogance; they view others as being superior to them. When referring to Jehovah, humility means that he deals with those who are inferior to him in a loving and merciful manner.

(Zephaniah 2:3) Seek Jehovah, all you meek ones of the earth, Who observe his righteous decrees. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you will be concealed on the day of Jehovah's anger.

Paragraph 1

(Numbers 12:3) Now the man Moses was by far the meekest of all the men on the face of the earth.

Paragraph 2

(Psalm 37:11) But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

Paragraph 4

(Matthew 5:5) “Happy are the mild-tempered, since they will inherit the earth.

(Galatians 5:23) mildness, self-control. Against such things there is no law.

(John 15:18, 19) If the world hates you, you know that it has hated me before it hated you.

19 If you were part of the world, the world would be fond of what is its own. Now because you are no part of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, for this reason the world hates you.

Paragraph 5

(Job 2:3-5) And Jehovah said to Satan: “Have you taken note of my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth. He is an upright man of integrity, fearing God and shunning what is bad. He is still holding firmly to his integrity, even though you try to incite me against him to destroy him for no reason.” 4 But Satan answered Jehovah: “Skin for skin. A man will give everything that he has for his life. 5 But, for a change, stretch out your hand and strike his bone and flesh, and he will surely curse you to your very face.”

Paragraph 8

(Numbers 12:1-13) Now Mir'i-am and Aaron began to speak against Moses because of the Cush'ite wife he had married, for he had taken a Cush'ite wife. 2 They were saying: “Is it only by Moses that Jehovah has spoken? Has he not also spoken through us?” And Jehovah was listening. 3 Now the man Moses was by far the meekest of all the men on the face of the earth. 4 Jehovah suddenly said to Moses and Aaron and Mir'i-am: “Go out, the three of you, to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them went out. 5 And Jehovah came down in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Mir'i-am. Both of them went forward. 6 He then said: “Hear my words, please. If there was a prophet of Jehovah among you, I would make myself known to him in a vision, and I would speak to him in a dream. 7 But it is not that way with my servant Moses! He is being entrusted with all my house. 8 Face-to-face I speak to him, openly, not by riddles; and the appearance of Jehovah is what he sees. Why, then, did you not fear to speak against my servant, against Moses?” 9 So Jehovah's anger burned against them, and he departed from

them. 10 The cloud moved away from over the tent, and look! Mir'i-am was struck with leprosy as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Mir'i-am, and he saw that she was struck with leprosy. 11 Immediately Aaron said to Moses: “I beg you, my lord! Please do not hold this sin against us! We have acted foolishly in what we have done. 12 Please, do not let her continue like someone dead, whose flesh is half eaten away at birth!” 13 And Moses began to cry out to Jehovah, saying: “O God, please heal her! Please!”

Paragraph 9

(Exodus 2:11, 12) Now in those days, after Moses had become an adult, he went out to his brothers to look at the burdens they were bearing, and he caught sight of an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brothers. 12 So he looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

(Acts 7:21-30) But when he was abandoned, the daughter of Phar'aoh took him and brought him up as her own son. 22 So Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. In fact, he was powerful in his words and deeds. 23 “Now when he reached the age of 40, it came into his heart to make a visit on his brothers, the sons of Israel. 24 When he caught sight of one of them being unjustly treated, he defended him and avenged the one being abused by striking down the Egyptian. 25 He thought that his brothers would grasp that God was giving them salvation by his hand, but they did not grasp it. 26 The next day he appeared to them as they were fighting, and he tried to reconcile them in peace, saying: ‘Men, you are brothers. Why do you mistreat each other?’ 27 But the one who was mistreating his neighbor pushed him away, saying: ‘Who appointed you ruler and judge over us? 28 You do not want to do away with me the way you did away with the Egyptian yesterday, do you?’ 29 On hearing this, Moses fled and lived as a foreigner in the land of Mid'i-an, where he became the father of two sons. 30 “After 40

years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Si'nai in the flame of a burning thornbush.

(Acts 7:36) This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for 40 years.

Paragraph 10

(Ecclesiastes 7:9) Do not be quick to take offense, for the taking of offense lodges in the bosom of fools.

(Ecclesiastes 7:20) For there is no righteous man on earth who always does good and never sins.

(Proverbs 15:1) A mild answer turns away rage, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

Paragraph 11

(Acts 5:29) In answer Peter and the other apostles said: “We must obey God as ruler rather than men.

Paragraph 12

- (Daniel 1:7) 7 And the principal court official assigned names to them; he gave to Daniel the name Bel-te-shaz'zar, to Han-a-ni'ah the name Sha'drach, to Mish'a-el the name Me'shach, and to Az-a-ri'ah the name A-bed'ne-go.

(Daniel 3:1) Neb-u-chad-nez'zar the king made an image of gold that was 60 cubits high and 6 cubits wide. He set it up on the plain of Du'ra in the province of Babylon.

(Daniel 3:8-28) Now at that time some of the Chal-de'ans came forward and accused the Jews. 9 They said to King Neb-u-chad-nez'zar: “O king, may you live on forever. 10 You, O king, gave the command that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, triangular harp, stringed instrument, bagpipe, and all the

other musical instruments should fall down and worship the image of gold; 11 and that whoever would not fall down and worship should be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. 12 But there are certain Jews whom you appointed to administer the province of Babylon: Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go. These men have paid no regard to you, O king. They are not serving your gods, and they refuse to worship the image of gold that you have set up.” 13 Then Neb·u·chad·nez'zar, in a furious rage, ordered Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go to be brought in. So these men were brought in before the king. 14 Neb·u·chad·nez'zar said to them: “Is it really true, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go, that you are not serving my gods and that you refuse to worship the image of gold that I have set up? 15 Now when you hear the sound of the horn, the pipe, the zither, the triangular harp, the stringed instrument, the bagpipe, and all the other musical instruments, if you are ready to fall down and worship the image that I have made, fine. But if you refuse to worship, you will immediately be thrown into the burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who can rescue you out of my hands?” 16 Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go answered the king: “O Neb·u·chad·nez'zar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If it must be, our God whom we serve is able to rescue us from the burning fiery furnace, O king, and to rescue us from your hand. 18 But even if he does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold that you have set up.” 19 Then Neb·u·chad·nez'zar became so furious with Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go that the expression of his face changed toward them, and he gave orders to heat the furnace seven times hotter than usual. 20 He ordered some of the mighty men from his army to bind Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go and to throw them into the burning fiery furnace. 21 So these men were tied up while still wearing their cloaks, garments, caps, and all their other clothing, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

22 Because the king's command was so harsh and the furnace was exceptionally hot, the men who took up Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go were the ones killed by the flames of the fire. 23 But these three men, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. 24 King Neb·u·chad·nez'zar then became frightened and quickly rose up and said to his high officials: “Did we not tie up three men and throw them into the fire?” They answered the king: “Yes, O king.” 25 He said: “Look! I see four men walking about free in the midst of the fire, and they are unharmed, and the fourth one looks like a son of the gods.” 26 Neb·u·chad·nez'zar approached the door of the burning fiery furnace and said: “Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go, you servants of the Most High God, step out and come here!” Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go stepped out from the midst of the fire. 27 And the satraps, prefects, governors, and the high officials of the king who were assembled there saw that the fire had had no effect on the bodies of these men; not a hair of their heads had been singed, their cloaks looked no different, and there was not even the smell of fire on them. 28 Neb·u·chad·nez'zar then declared: “Praised be the God of Sha'drach, Me'shach, and A·bed'ne-go, who sent his angel and rescued his servants. They trusted in him and went against the command of the king and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

(Exodus 20:4, 5) “You must not make for yourself a carved image or a form like anything that is in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. 5 You must not bow down to them nor be enticed to serve them, for I, Jehovah your God, am a God who requires exclusive devotion, bringing punishment for the error of fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation of those who hate me,

Paragraph 13

(Psalm 118:6, 7) Jehovah is on my side; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

7 Jehovah is on my side as my helper; I will look in triumph on those who hate me.

(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone who demands of you a reason for the hope you have, but doing so with a mild temper and deep respect.

Paragraph 15

(John 3:14, 15) And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so the Son of man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone believing in him may have everlasting life.

(Galatians 3:13) Christ purchased us, releasing us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse instead of us, because it is written: “Accursed is every man hung upon a stake.”

(Luke 12:50) Indeed, I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and how I am distressed until it is finished!

(John 12:27, 28) Now I am troubled, and what should I say? Father, save me out of this hour. Nevertheless, this is why I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have glorified it and will glorify it again.”

(Isaiah 53:7) He was oppressed and he let himself be afflicted, But he would not open his mouth. He was brought like a sheep to the slaughter, Like a ewe that is silent before its shearers, And he would not open his mouth.

(Isaiah 53:10) But it was Jehovah’s will to crush him, and he let him become sick. If you will present his life as a guilt offering, He will see his offspring, he will prolong his days,

And through him the delight of Jehovah will have success.

Paragraph 16

(Romans 5:18, 19) So, then, as through one trespass the result to men of all sorts was condemnation, so too through one act of justification the result to men of all sorts is their being declared righteous for life. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one person many will be made righteous.

(Job 2:4) But Satan answered Jehovah: “Skin for skin. A man will give everything that he has for his life.

(Luke 22:24-28) However, there also arose a heated dispute among them over which one of them was considered to be the greatest. 25 But he said to them: “The kings of the nations lord it over them, and those having authority over them are called Benefactors. 26 You, though, are not to be that way. But let the one who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the one taking the lead as the one ministering. 27 For which one is greater, the one dining or the one serving? Is it not the one dining? But I am among you as the one serving. 28 “However, you are the ones who have stuck with me in my trials;

(John 13:1-5) Now because he knew before the festival of the Passover that his hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father, Jesus, having loved his own who were in the world, loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was going on, and the Devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Is·car'i·ot, the son of Simon, to betray him. 3 So Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he came from God and was going to God, 4 got up from the evening meal and laid aside his outer garments. And taking a towel, he wrapped it around his waist. 5 After that he put

water into a basin and started to wash the feet of the disciples and to dry them off with the towel that was wrapped around him.

(John 13:12-15) When, now, he had washed their feet and had put his outer garments on, he again reclined at the table and said to them: “Do you understand what I have done to you? 13 You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are correct, for I am such. 14 Therefore, if I, the Lord and Teacher, washed your feet, you also should wash the feet of one another. 15 For I set the pattern for you, that just as I did to you, you should also do.

Paragraph 17

(Colossians 3:13) Continue putting up with one another and forgiving one another freely even if anyone has a cause for complaint against another. Just as Jehovah freely forgave you, you must also do the same.

(Proverbs 12:18) Thoughtless speech is like the stabs of a sword, But the tongue of the wise is a healing.

(James 3:2) For we all stumble many times. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able to bridle also his whole body.

(James 3:5) So, too, the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it makes great brags. See how small a fire it takes to set a great forest ablaze!

(Ephesians 4:29) Let a rotten word not come out of your mouth, but only what is good for building up as the need may be, to impart what is beneficial to the hearers.

Paragraph 18

(Psalm 10:17) But you will hear the request of the meek, O Jehovah. You will make their hearts firm and pay close attention to them.

(Psalm 25:9) He will guide the meek in what is right, And he will teach the meek ones his way.

- *** w19 February p. 12 Seek Meekness and Please Jehovah ***
- For example, see the article “Make Decisions That Honor God,” published in the April 15, 2011, issue of The Watchtower.

(Matthew 24:45-47) “Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their food at the proper time? 46 Happy is that slave if his master on coming finds him doing so! 47 Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings.

Paragraph 19

(Numbers 20:1-5) In the first month, the entire assembly of the Israelites came into the wilderness of Zin, and the people began dwelling in Ka'desh. It was there that Mir'i-am died and was buried. 2 Now there was no water for the assembly, and they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. 3 The people were quarreling with Moses, saying: “If only we had died when our brothers died before Jehovah! 4 Why have you brought Jehovah’s congregation into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? 5 And why have you led us up out of Egypt to bring us into this evil place? It is no place for seed and figs and vines and pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.”

(Numbers 20:9-11) So Moses took the rod from before Jehovah, just as He had commanded him. 10 Then Moses and Aaron called the congregation together before the crag, and he said to them: “Hear, now, you rebels! Must we bring out water for you from this crag?” 11 With that Moses lifted his hand up and struck the crag twice with his rod, and much water began to pour out, and the assembly and their livestock began to drink.

Paragraph 20

(Psalm 106:32, 33) They provoked Him at the waters of Mer'i·bah, And it went badly for Moses because of them. 33 They embittered his spirit, And he spoke rashly with his lips.

(Numbers 20:12) Jehovah later said to Moses and Aaron: “Because you did not show faith in me and sanctify me before the eyes of the people of Israel, you will not bring this congregation into the land that I will give them.”

Paragraph 22

(Psalm 37:10, 11) Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more; You will look at where they were, And they will not be there. 11 But the meek will possess the earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.

(Zephaniah 2:3) Seek Jehovah, all you meek ones of the earth, Who observe his righteous decrees. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you will be concealed on the day of Jehovah’s anger.

Paragraph 23

(Zephaniah 2:3) Seek Jehovah, all you meek ones of the earth, Who observe his righteous decrees. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you will be concealed on the day of Jehovah’s anger.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT MEEKNESS FROM . . .

▪ **Moses?**

▪ **Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah?**

▪ **Jesus?**