

Gentleness

'If a gentle person was to walk through your door or into your room right now, what would you expect them to be like?

You may think they will be :

- *Kind*
- *Quiet maybe ...*
- *Softly spoken??*
- In 2 Corinthians 10:1, in the second part of the Bible, Paul who preached and taught people about Jesus appeals to the Christians '...by the humility and gentleness of Christ'.
- *What do you think he meant by this?*

What kind of gentle ?

When we look at the gospel of Matthew there are many examples of Jesus being gentle. Read one of these stories and think about how Jesus was gentle with others.

- Matthew 5:38-42 Avoiding vengeance
- Matthew 6:26-30 Admiring birds and flowers
- Matthew 8:23-26 Calming a storm
- Matthew 11:28-30 Offering rest
- Matthew 19:13-15 Welcoming children

Matthew 11:25-12:21

Matthew 11:25-12:21 highlights bits about Jesus' gentleness

- Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11:25-12:21

Matthew 12:9-14

⁹ Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue,
¹⁰ and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

¹¹ He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

¹³ Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. ¹⁴ But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Matthew 11:25-12:21

- Matthew 12:9-14

¹⁵ Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. ¹⁶ He warned them not to tell others about him. ¹⁷ This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

¹⁸ “Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

¹⁹ **He will not quarrel or cry out;**
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory.

²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope.”

After reading, ask yourself.....

- What have you learnt about the gentleness of Jesus from these passages?
- Is gentleness connected with weakness or is it something else?
- If we are supposed to be like Christ today how should what we've read challenge our own behaviour?

Ending thoughts

- Although Jesus referred to himself as gentle (11:29) it ended up with the Pharisees wanting to kill him.
- To go even deeper, where the servant of the Lord, Jesus is described as bringing justice in a gentle, yet unstoppable way.
- This saviour, Jesus is unstoppable and powerful, yet will not force himself on others (who are free to ignore or reject).

Using the rest

Accept my teachings and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest for your lives.'

Matthew 11:29 (NCV)

You may want to spend some time in quiet as you read this verse. Think about how we can be gentle like Jesus and show that gentleness to others.

You may want to listen to the song 'I will rest in you' by Jaci Velasquez.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nT4yIBelC2Y>



**Oh, I want to be
In the place that I once knew
as a little child.
Fall into the bed of faith
prepared for me.**