The

HOLY FROG

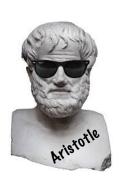
Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God.

RTOG

The power of pie and the art of meekness!

I never truly understood the power of a Fray Bentos steak pie until I visited my sister shortly after she herself had discovered it's explosive properties! As I entered her kitchen, I noticed numerous clumps of brown stuff on the ceiling. I was curious as to what had happened. She explained that when putting the pie in the oven to cook, she had forgotten to remove the lid first. Consequently, 30 minutes later when she took the tin out of the oven, it was 'football' shaped! She thought nothing of this phenomena and set to opening the pie with a tin opener...BOOM! The pressure inside was released, the lid flew off and the whole tin exploded hurling the contents of the pie upwards until it stuck to the ceiling! Of course the results could have been devastating...no dinner! It was all good though, my sister bought chips instead (and she was fine by the way.)

Ironically, the Beatitude of the week is all about keeping a lid **ON** things! Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.



In our culture the term "meek" might conjure up the image of a person who is weak, mild, passive and even timid. Jesus uses the word in a different way though. The biblical understanding of **meekness is all about keeping feelings under control.** Unlike the exploding steak pie, WE CAN CHOOSE TO KEEP A LID ON IT and **be meek!**

Yes, it is actually defined as a positive characteristic: Aristotle - Meekness is the character of one having the passion of resentment under control, and therefore is tranquil and untroubled" which indicates that meekness brings strength and calm to the soul.

Meekness has a firm foundation of trust and faith in God. Which is what we aspire to in our christian ethos at S.Peter's. A meek person lives in close relationship with God, keeps their eyes fixed on Him and stays strong when treated unfairly. Know anyone like that?

Jesus of course! An example of meekness, who consistently showed humility in the presence of his enemies. Keeping his godly power under control, even during his trial and crucifixion. It would have been understandable of he had exploded in retaliation! But he didn't because there was a greater purpose to be considered - demonstrating God's agape love for the world. He spoke of himself as meek and encouraged his followers to be the same.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29). Meekness doesn't retaliate when wronged, isn't boastful or self-seeking. Meek people don't envy or bad mouth others but rather exercise patience in the face of adversity. The meek show joy and happiness under dire circumstances. No matter what happens in the world around them, they latch on to God's provision and plan for their lives.

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Being meek is not about being weak and passive, but being strong and courageous in showing God's love; and it comes with reward......for they will inherit the Earth."



It is challenging to humbly put away our power and sit under God's control because we think it's better to get them before they get you! Yes, sometimes, the bad guys might win!

But - in the long run says Jesus - the meek "will inherit the earth." God's promise of the kingdom is a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1). Those who submit their power to God will inherit the perfect kingdom coming to earth.

Jesus' reference to being 'meek' is about choosing to keep a lid on things and being prepared to Fully Rely On God for what you may need.

So What does that mean for us this week?

Meekness doesn't mean we let others walk all over us simply because, "It's not the Christian thing to do to speak up." However, it does mean we **curb our urge to avenge** the wrongs done against us, and instead use whatever power we have to serve others.

We often find ourselves caught up in unfair circumstances. The question is how we handle those moments? 'Putting a lid on' feelings of revenge, anger and frustration before anyone can really get hurt takes guts, humility and meekness! That would be good to see in the tennis courts when the tackles are flying in: In the corridors when gossips starts: In the bus queue when the last seat is taken. We can lash out, seek revenge or try to defend ourselves but what if we can ask God to equip us with quiet dignity to get through? One way leads to momentary relief, while the other leads to spiritual growth, and may even be a witness to others. This attitude will win out in the end with the meek having a place in God's kingdom.

What's Your attitude to this beatitude?

CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE:

- 1. What is the worst disaster to have happened when you were cooking?
- 2. Some say it takes a real hero to walk away from a fight. True or False?
- 3. **Meekness, is a positive virtue.** How can you demonstrate this virtue in school?
- 4. When would it be wrong to just stand back and watch an injustice happen?
- 5. Why do you think Jesus didn't use his power to save himself from torture and death?

Read and Reflect: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12).

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, If I'm honest, meekness is not always my first response, because it goes against my human tendency to get justice and to stand up for myself. I know My heart needs to change, but it won't happen without your help. Lord, will you help me to see practical ways to walk out of a potentially explosive situation. Help me keep a lid on my feelings. Help me to be meek!



Amen.