To Meek (Michael Wurster)

Introduction

In today's world If you were to ask any Christian, "What is an ambassador for Christ"? What types of answers do you think you would get? Some might give answers referencing the history of the Crusades or perhaps prominent figures in the Protestant Reformation. Make no mistake there are probably hundreds of correct answers to this question. Now ask yourself, do you meet that definition? Whatever it might be. Maybe for some, a better question might be "Do you desire to be, an ambassador for Christ". Christians should and need to have a deep burning, passionate desire to bring souls to the Lord. After-all, how could you not? Paul writes know then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. If you can put a check in the box that you are this type of Christian, there is an unfortunate and harsh reality we must understand to its

fullest. The first side of the coin is the conversion (Heart Change) of an individual to a believer is a work entirely done by the Holy Spirit and not of yourself, The other side of the coin or perhaps the dark side, is once the human element creeps into our passion and our own selfish desires instead of waiting on the power of God in good faith, we have the ability to turn away the hearts of individuals as well. You don't have look or think very hard to know what I'm talking about here.

You see it in the church everywhere. From organized religious entity's, down to the singular believer not walking the walk. Particularly, in the way we conduct ourselves in society (look, think, speak, Act). Now make no mistake, God will always reach who he needs to reach but we need to understand that the way we conduct ourselves and communicate can be the difference between someone getting it slowly and progressively as you nurture their spirit in your word and actions, or someone ignoring the Spirit completely and proceeding in shutting them down for the next decade or even longer by their human element let's say. With all this said there is many criteria for an ambassador for Christ, one of which is that is that you need to be usable. I say useable because it is critical that you always listen and obey the spirit and not to let your emotions get the better of you. The key point for this teaching is the term Meek but not as you have heard it before. In old English

the term was used for training wild mustangs for battle. The goal here was not to tame them but to specifically harness nature hardened toughness that these animals have and used them as amazing military assets at the time. What made them effective you might ask? They would do whatever the master said with their same fearless nature that they demonstrated out in the wild. When you tie that into being an ambassador for Christ, I can summarize this in a single sentence credited to my Senior Drill Instructor from basic training. "You will conform, you will be disciplined, you will have instant, willingness and obedience to orders."

Mathew 5:3-5

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. Mathew 5:3-5

☑ Effective communicator

- Meek- deficient in spirit and courage Submissive
- People who are meek are spiritually bankrupt, they have nothing to off God other than your obedience.
- Cannot please God without faith. (Hebrews 11
- ☑ Faith without works is dead (James 2)
- Paul demonstrates this throughout Acts

- When the Lord places something on your heart, Pray and wait on him
- Warrior spirit entails discipline allowing the Lord to Go before you and trusting he will

<u>Ine Lord goes before you!</u>

- ☑ The Lord is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8
- "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;
 I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their
 iron bars." Isaiah 45:2
- It shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the balsam trees, then you shall act promptly, for then the Lord will have gone out before you to strike the army of the Philistines." 2 Samuel 5:24

Section Title

"Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this

babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them." Acts 17:16-34 NKIV

To Meek: Acts 17:16-21

Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was [e]given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. Acts 17:16-17

☑ The Words Used

- Concept of discipline when emotionally provoked
- Acts Chapter 9

A fool gives full vent to his anger,(f)but a wise man holds it in check. Proverbs 29:11

✓ Not getting very far

"Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this [g]babbler want to say?" Acts 17:18

☑ God setting the Stage for Paul

Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the [h]Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. Acts 17:19-21

Paul waits on the Lord (Patience) and God Orchestrates the whole thing

- ☑ The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him. Lamentations 3:25
- ☑ Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

- Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Psalm 37:7
- Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength;
 They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run
 and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary
 Isaiah 40:31

Observing verses Conforming

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2

Scripture 1:26-50

- And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:2
 - **The Church as we know it today.**
 - **✓** Not of this world we still need to be fully here.
- Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

Walk in the authority of God

- ☑ The free Gifts in which God gives you are for the taking so take them!
- ☑ What does he give you?
- Access to his divine power of grace
- Authority
- Peace
- Joy in persecution
- Treasure in Heaven

Paul is willing and knows when to move forward

Then Paul stood in the midst of the [i]Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one [j]blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined

their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Acts 17:22-31

- Establish some common ground with the audience. know them.
- Poets, very religious.
- ☑ Do not Conform!!!
- ☑ Calling all men to repentance Mention of sin verse 30
- ☑ Death and resurrection of Christ verse 31

☑ Disclaimer demonstrating meekness will not be a100% surefire way to get through to people.

☑ How do we know this?

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them. Acts 17:32-34

The Apostle Paul's Christmas Party (The Platform) Mathew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Mathew 5:13-16

Your Call to action out in the world.

☑ The platform that God puts you on how you conduct yourself in a fallen world are you separate or consuming? The weight that holds on others

- ☑ Grabbing the World's attention by your obedience that is the work of God (Example)
 - Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me. Psalm 119:18-19