

Chapter 17. LEARN FROM CHRIST.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls". – Matthew 11:29

All Bible study is learning. To be fruitful, all Bible study should be learning of Christ. The Bible is the schoolbook, Christ is the Teacher. He opens the understanding, opens the heart, and opens the seals (**Luk.24:45; Acts 16:14; Rev.5:9**). Christ is the living eternal Word, of which the written words are the human expression. Christ's presence and teaching are the secret of all true Bible study. The written Word is powerless, except as it helps us to the Living Word. No one has ever thought of accusing our Lord of not honouring the Old Testament. In His own life, He proved the He loved it as coming out of God's mouth. He always pointed the Jews to it as the revelation of God and the witness to Himself. But it is remarkable how frequently He spoke to the disciples about His own teaching as that which they needed the most, and what they had to obey. It was only after His resurrection, when they were united with Him again, and they had already received the first breath of the Spirit (**Joh.20:22**), that we find Him explaining the Scriptures. The Jews had their self-made interpretation of the Word. They made it the greatest barrier between themselves and Him, of whom it spoke. It is so often the same with Christians. Our human understanding of Scripture, fortified as it may be by the authority of the Church, or our own circle, becomes the greatest hindrance to Christ's teachings. Christ the Living Word seeks first to find His place in our heart and life, to be our only Teacher. Then shall we learn from Him to honour and understand Scripture.

Learn of Me for I am meek and lowly of heart. Here our Lord opens up the inmost secret of His own inner life. That which He brought down to us from heaven; that which fits Him to be a Teacher and Saviour; that which He has given to us, and which He wants us to learn from Him. You will find it in the words, "*I am meek and lowly of heart.*" It is the one virtue that makes Him the Lamb of God, our suffering Redeemer, our heavenly Teacher and Leader. It is the one disposition which He asks of us when we come to learn from Him. Out of this all other teachings will come. this one condition is what we need to truly learn from Christ, in all our Bible study and in our whole Christian life. He, the Teacher, meek and lowly of heart, wants to make you what He is, because that is salvation. As a learner, you must come and

study Him, believe in Him, the meek and lowly One, and seek to learn from Him how to be meek and lowly too.

Why is this the first and most important thing? Because it forms the root of true relationship of a creature to God. God alone has life and goodness and happiness. As the God of Love, He delights to give and work everything in us. Christ became the Son of Man to show humans what it is to live in blessed unceasing dependence upon God. This is what it means that He is lowly in heart. It is in this attitude that the angels veil their faces and cast their crowns before God. God is everything to them, and they delight to receive all and to give all. This is the root of the true Christian life: to be nothing before God and people; to wait on God alone; to delight in, to imitate, to learn of Christ, the Meek and Lowly One. This is the very key to the School of Christ, the only key to the true knowledge of Scripture. It is with this attitude that Christ came to teach; it is only with this attitude that you can learn of Him.

How seldom in the Christian Church does humility, the meek and lowly heart, occupy the same place as it had in the life of Christ and the teachings of God's Word. I am deeply persuaded that this lack of humility is the cause of a large part of the feebleness and unfruitfulness that we hear of in the church. It is only as we are meek and lowly in heart, that Christ can teach us by His Spirit what God has for us, and what God will work in us. Let us begin with ourselves and reckon this as the first condition of discipleship, and the first lesson the Master will surely teach us. Let us make all our Bible study a lesson to learn of Christ, to trust Him, who is so meek and gentle and kind, to wait for Him to work His own character and likeness in us. In due time our morning watch will be the scene of daily fellowship and daily blessing.

I know how difficult it is to persuade you that that a meek and lowly heart is the first thing to consider in Bible study. It is hard to make people realise that, in fellowship with God, your attitude and disposition are everything. It is even more difficult to show them that of all Christian disposition and character, a meek and lowly heart is the very seed and root of all. It is hard to convince them that without it, Bible study profits very little. It is above all hard to lead them to understand and believe that the meek and lowly heart can be theirs, because it is the very thing Christ offers to give, teaching us how to find and receive it in Himself. Even in the face of all these difficulties, I nevertheless, urge all Bible students to thoughtfully and prayerfully

consider whether the very first question to be settled in the inner chamber is not this: "Is my heart in the state in which my Teacher desires it to be?" And if it is not, "Is it not my first task to yield myself to Him, to work it in me?"

Prayer: Lord Jesus, my Master and Teacher, I humble myself before You. Forgive me for my arrogance. I need a meek and lowly heart like yours. Please work it in me with your Holy Spirit. Amen.