

Meek and Mild

Jesus is often portrayed as a blond haired, blue eyed, meek and mild... just a nice man. In a man's search for strength, when the bible say's that we are being conformed to the likeness of Jesus it doesn't sound like a whole lot of encouragement at first. Telling me to be like him feels like telling me to go soft and passive. Be nice. Be gentle, be like Mother Theresa.

Truth is Jesus is the 'manest' man that has ever lived and we need to look no further than Jesus to rediscover the man God designed you to be. 1 Corinthians 15 says just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

Here are five aspects of Jesus 'the man' that can inspire us as men to be more like him:

Jesus- a man at work: Jesus was a carpenter and would have worked with his hands; a blue collar worker. Being like Jesus means we are men who diligently put in a days hard graft. We take responsibility for providing for our families and being a witness through our attitude in the workplace.

Jesus- a man of no compromise: Jesus would often have skirmishes with the Pharisees. In Luke 13 we see he was quick to pick a fight with the leader of the Synagogue, calling him a hypocrite for criticising His healing a girl on the Sabbath. Jesus wasn't afraid to shame his enemies. Do you speak up when it matters or is your response like Jeremiah- 'I can't speak; I am only a child'

Jesus- a man of passion: Jesus was angry at the misuse of the temple courts. Zeal for his father's house consumed him. What is your passion like for God's house- the church? Are you a man of passion or as CS Lewis said 'have you been sidetracked by civilian affairs'?

Jesus- a man of sacrifice: Jesus said if anyone would come after me he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Jesus say's we need to be men of sacrifice if we are to follow him. We need to acknowledge our weaknesses as men and follow Him.

Jesus-a man on a mission: Jesus will one day return as the head of an army, mounted on a white horse with a double edged sword. As men there is something in our make up that say's we are built for a fight, designed to be in a battle, on a mission. Eph 6 v 10 says that we are in a spiritual battle. Jesus is the head of the army and we are his foot soldiers seeing his kingdom advance here on earth. Matt 11 v 12 says that the kingdom of heaven is forcefully advancing and forceful men lay hold of it. God is calling us to be forceful men.

A few questions to discuss...

1. Does Jesus the man inspire you? Why?
2. How easy do you find it to put in a day's hard work?
3. What would your boss say about the effort you put in at work?
4. When was the last time you spoke out on an issue of injustice?
5. How passionate are you about the Church?
6. Are you more or less passionate about the church than this time last year?
7. What 'civilian affairs' have sidetracked you?
8. What are you most passionate about in life?
9. How easy do you find it to be a follower of Jesus? What challenges do you face?
10. Do you think you are a forceful man?