



The Gentle Approach

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Introduction:

- God's blessing in our homes
- Meek and gentle

Blessed are those who are gentle. They will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be treated mercifully.

Matthew 5:5, 7

The Gentle Approach...

1. Reduces anger and violence

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:1

One of Nabal's servants spoke to Nabal's wife Abigail. The servant said, "David sent messengers from the desert to meet our master, but Nabal was rude to them. These men were very good to us while we were out in the fields with the sheep. David's men were with us the whole time, and they never did anything wrong to us. They did not take anything from us. His men protected us night and day. They were like a wall around us—they protected us while we were with them caring for the sheep. Nabal was foolish to say what he did. Terrible trouble is coming to our master and all his family. You need to think of something to do..."

1 Samuel 25:14-17

Just then Abigail arrived. When she saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down with her face to the ground in front of him. Abigail fell at his feet and said, "Sir, please let me talk to you. Listen to what I say. Blame me for what happened..."

1 Samuel 25:24-25

David answered Abigail, "Praise the LORD, the God of Israel. Praise God for sending you to meet me. God bless you for your good judgment. You kept me from killing innocent people today."

1 Samuel 25:32-33

2. Shows our love to people

Then the people brought their little children to Jesus so that he could lay his hands on them to bless them and pray for them. When the followers saw this, they told the people to stop bringing their children to him. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because God's kingdom belongs to people who are like these children."

Matthew 19:13-14

3. Shows our trust in God

Jesus stood before Pilate, the governor, who asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Yes, that's right." Then, when the leading priests and the older Jewish leaders made their accusations against Jesus, he said nothing. So Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear all these charges they are making against you? Why don't you answer?" But Jesus did not say anything, and this really surprised the governor.

Matthew 27: 11-14

Next Steps:

- I will read 1 Samuel 25 this week
- I will speak words of love and kindness when _____ becomes angry
- I choose to embrace the Gentle Approach in my marriage / home / with my children
- I commit to respond with gentleness instead of anger or ego throughout the coming week
- _____