

“Blessed Are the Meek”

Matthew 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the earth.”

The Beatitudes Are About Faith

- How faith begins (vs. 3-5)
- How faith develops (v. 6)
- How faith matures (vs. 7-9)
- How faith is tested (vs. 10-12)

The Beatitudes Are About Faith

- The “poor in spirit” are those who see that God is and view themselves in perspective: that they are nothing before God
- Those who “mourn” realize their true condition, that sin ruined him; he mourns for himself and for the fallen world
- The “meek” act upon what they know about their condition and need for God’s blessing and forgiveness

The Beatitudes Are About Faith

- How does faith begin?
 - Hab. 2:4 - “Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.”
 - Meekness is crucial to life here and eternal life there

Understanding Meekness

- “Meekness is an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person’s conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness.”
(Nelson’s Bible Dictionary)

Understanding Meekness

- “Strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness”
- It is not weakness, fearfulness, timidity, and helplessness
- Greek word “praus” comes from a word used by physicians to describe a soothing medicine, by sailors to describe a gentle breeze, and by farmers to describe a colt broken for riding
- All three are examples of power under control
- Prov. 16:32 - “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

Psalm 37:1-11 - "Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. 6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. 7 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 brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret-it only causes harm. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Understanding Meekness

- Matt. 11:29 - “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.”
- Gal. 5:22-23 - “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Understanding Meekness

- Eph. 4:1-2 - “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love”
- Col. 3:12 - “Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering”
- 1Tim. 6:11 - “But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.”

Understanding Meekness

- 2Tim. 2:24-25 - “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, 25 in humility correcting those who are in opposition...”
- Titus 3:1-2 - “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”

Meekness And Faith

- The meek realizes that he has nothing with which to overcome his sins, nothing with which to cleanse himself of them
- The meek still has power, but he uses it only under the direction of God, Who he acknowledges to be in control
- Meekness is the quality that finally moves a person to believe, trust, depend on, and to obey God

Meekness And Faith

- Meekness is not powerlessness; one does not give up power to be meek
- Neither does a believer give up his faith and power when he meekly submits to God; he gives over his power into God's control

Meekness And Faith

- He uses his power under God's control
- He accomplishes good instead of causing harm
- He knows he is not the answer; God is, and he is willing to be used by God
- He does not need to overcome or overwhelm; he knows that God will do that through him

The Meek Shall Inherit The Earth

- Is it the world in which we live? The poor are often untimely buried in it, but that is not what Jesus meant
- Is it a re-created heaven and earth? Often based on a misunderstanding or misapplication of 2Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1?

The Meek Shall Inherit The Earth

- It is one of the three promises given to Abraham; in Christ; these promises are made spiritual and eternal
 - The great nation - the family of God
 - The great land - our eternal home in heaven
 - The great blessings - in Christ

“Blessed Are the Meek”

- “Men sometimes speak as if humility and meekness would rob us of what is noble and bold and manlike. O that all would believe that this is the nobility of the kingdom of heaven, that this is the royal spirit that the King of heaven displayed, that this is Godlike, to humble oneself, to become the servant of all!” (Andrew Murray)

“Blessed Are the Meek”

- “Sir Thomas More was a victim of injustice and irony. Generously and meekly, just as he was about to be martyred, he said: Paul ... was present, and consented to the death of St. Stephen, and kept their clothes that stoned him to death, and yet be they [Stephen and Paul] now both twain Holy Saints in heaven, and shall continue there friends forever, so I verily trust and ... pray, that though your lordships have now here in earth been judges to my condemnation, we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together, to our everlasting salvation.”