

Matthew 5-7 Sermon on the Mountain

Principles of the Kingdom

THE BEATITUDES

*And when He saw the multitudes', He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down His disciples came to Him. And opening His mouth He began to teach them, saying, 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.** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men call you to account, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice and be glad for your reward in heaven is great for so they persecuted the prophet who were before you. (Matt 5:1-12)*

Reminder: As we come to the beatitudes we have been saying that they build on one another. You cannot not mourn about your lack and deficiencies and be comforted unless you first are aware of your lack-your poverty of spirit first. Likewise the third beatitude would have been able to stand first; it would have been much out of place there. The first thing the grace of God does in a man's soul is to reveal his poverty before an all sufficient God.

Strongs: prios/prious (4235 from 4239) meek, gentle, humble; power under restraint

I. BLESSED ARE THE **MEEK** FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

A. A man can only ascend to the grace and virtue of the third beatitude, can only stand upon the third rung of this ladder of light only after having stood on the two rungs prior.

1. The notion and blessing of meekness found in the text of Matt 5:5 can only be apprehended after poverty of spirit and mourning are wrought in his soul.

2. No man becomes meek in the Christian sense of the word without first being made aware of the true nature of himself, then mourn and lament over how short he has fallen from what he was intended to be.

B. The third beatitude is worth noting also that it is of a higher order than the two prior.

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1. The third beatitude of meekness differs from the previous two in that something is actually supplied to adherent of grace. There is something positive given. Something of real virtue bestowed.

a. The first-poverty of spirit-there is an expressiveness of deficiency or lack. Actually leaves one with the reality that something is indeed needed to be supplied beyond what he currently possesses by the Most High. The ALL MIGHTY!

b. The second-mourning- is much like the first in it is an appropriate expression of supernatural grief towards that which he realizes he is lacking. The lacking of one and many of a thousand different things which he does not in and of himself possess.

2. The third beatitude actually gives something positive-not negative. A proof that the Holy Spirit is actually sovereignly working in the soul of a man supplying the sufficient grace to make the believer something in his old carnal nature something he was not....MEEK.

C. The third beatitude is not also merely a higher rung upon the golden ladder of light but also provides a far greater expanse and reach into the sphere of Christ glory and dominion by bringing the light of His eternal glory out into the open through the man who is now meek.

1. The first two beatitudes could be a work of grace that can remain in isolation from the greater community of man. Ones that could go unnoticed by our neighbors. Only personal unto our own individual salvation.

a. Meekness brings the grace of God in our lives out into the open view of others and brings to bear the life and character of Christ. Meekness is brought out into the lives of others as we walk in meekness towards others.

b. We can be poor in spirit and mourn in secret and yet still remain in high esteem before others. When we are meek though, our otherworldliness becomes exposed and sets us up for our ascent towards the fourth rung on this ever ascending ladder of light.

II. WHO ARE THE MEEK? WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MEEK?

A. As stated above the meek are not only meek before God but are also meek before men.

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1. To be meek before God means to be submitted to His will and be flexible to His Word.

a. Submitted to God's Will;

i. God's providential rule in their daily lives.

ii. Perfectly satisfied with the present position and circumstances in which the all power God of the universe has allowed to come to pass without the whimper of asking WHY God? Without the slightest of quarrel towards His sovereign will.

iii. They do not walk as one born cursed, or as one who has inherited unfavorable circumstances that will stunt their growth and arrest their development. As one who blames God, curses their maker, and harangues Him. For the pot does not say to it's maker why have you made me so?

iv. The meek walk as men dead to sin and yet are alive to God through Christ obeying the voice of Lord no matter how insignificant it may seem.

b. Flexible to God' Word;

i. If we are really meek then we will always be flexible to bend before His holy and righteous commands. We will be glad to bend.

ii. We don't come to the scriptures with our own vain imaginations looking for proof text to back up our position. We do not intend to seek out reasons and allowances for our sin/compromise. Nor do we selfishly throw out all commands that do not directly deal or affect our personal salvation.

iii. Meekness means coming before the bonfire of God's word with the intention of putting our cold hearts before it, whereby our hearts of flesh might be written upon, seeking to hide it in our hearts that we may not sin against our God.

iv. Meekness means coming in the holy fear of God to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, that we may reflect the glory and image of His Christ and walk as a living epistle amongst the peoples of the world who are yet still darkened in their understanding and bound for hell if Christ not be yet revealed to them.

2. To be meek before men means to be; humble, gentle, patient & content

a. To be humble....

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- i. to be a man among men vs. being the best man amongst the men. Not to tread through a trough of blood like Ceasar, Napoleon, or Hitler in order to set up for ourselves a throne or monument to ourselves.
 - ii. Even our God elevates us and makes us great in the sight of man our attitude may be like that of the attitude of Christ who did not comprehend equality with God as something to be grasped, but let it go and was made a little lower than the angels and became a servant of all.
 - iii. To be able and willing to walk and pass by our fellow man as one who is merely endowed by His grace for His glory. Not to be about setting ourselves up as superior or building for ourselves a kingdom where moth and dust only destroy.
- b. To be gentle...
- i. Does speak harshly or in a controlling or domineering fashion
 - ii. Readily gives up what he deems lawful for himself when finds it is not expedient to others.
 - iii. Seeks to be a true brother to the brethren
 - iv. Turns away wrath with loving-kindness in word and deed
 - v. Servant-no task is too small. Would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than a ruler in a kings palace.
- c. To be patient...
- i. Not easily offended. Even when opportunity for offenses come, a gentle (meek) person will most often not even see the opportunity for offense. Even when the other comes to ask for forgiveness the person easily forgives for they see not even the opportunity for the offense. But seen it as merely a mistake.
 - ii. Even when opportunity did come and anger did arise for a moment. For what man does not get angry at some point. But when the anger arises he does not sin in it, and turns his anger wholly towards the evil where it belongs and not towards the person.
- d. To be content...
- i. When enough is a feast
 - ii. When ambition is killed
 - iii. Easily satisfied with God daily bread. Does not grumble and complain about the daily manna and always finds the water from the rock as sweet.
 - iv. Not a miser or greedy. Doesn't store up for self while the neighbors starve and freeze.
 - v. Freely given so freely gives. Positions self to useful to the King not for personal gain but for the betterment of his fellow man.

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vi. Claims personal success and fulfillment only in others achievements.

III. MEEKNESS IS BEING MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

A. Proud, mean spirited, and impatient men are always on the look out for annoyances and opportunities to get offended. i.e. passed me by at church (without seeing me) and didn't acknowledge me. Critical in their view of others. Mad at things done, things even not done. We all have met many a Christian in this state.

B. If we find ourselves in this position we are not meek if we say this is how were made and I can do nothing about it. But we must slay all manner of wickedness. Bring everything to the altar of sacrifice and slay all manner of sin whether of our own making or even the ones that are seared deep into the fabric of our very own constitution.

C. Even when men in this world seek to persecute us or do us harm the meek freely forgive the injury done to him. The meek (gentle, humble, content, patient) will always win the day in the end. When we are weak we are strong in Him. It's way of the Master.

Conclusion: In these ways the meek truly inherit the earth. By overcoming the ways of fallen man. A grace that can only be bestowed upon us by God, and only reached after mourning over the poverty of our spirit. A inheritance of earth in the here and now, as well as in the age to come. After the earth is cleansed with fire and the sea is no more. No vile, angry, malicious, mean spirited men, or war mongers will inherit the earth. Indeed only the meek (humble, gentle, patient, content) will inherit the Kingdom-righteousness, joy, and peace.

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