

Be Meek, Not Weak !

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

All of Jesus' Beatitudes are attitudes that lead to inner joy. His 1st Beatitude was ***"blessed are those who are poor in spirit"***, or those who are empty of self, filled with the Spirit and allow God to call the shots in their lives. The 2nd Beatitude was ***"blessed are those who mourn"***, or those who are sad over their sins, whether they are sins of commission or omission. This 3rd Beatitude, ***"blessed are the meek"***, focuses on those who submit their will to God's will by displaying a submissive heart.

If you were to make the statement, ***"blessed are the meek"*** to the self-assertive go-getters of today who are focused on climbing the world's ladders of success and would take whatever action necessary to achieve their goals, they would most likely discount your statement and laugh at you. Yet Jesus makes this statement to His disciples, those who He commissioned to not only impact their agrarian culture, but also the highly sophisticated culture of the world. He not only tells them that it will be a tough, self-sacrificing assignment, but He models it for them all the way to the cross. One of the outcomes was celebrated world-wide just ten days ago when He experienced victory over death on a cross. The final victory for His disciples will be the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to bring all His own to glory. God will give them grace for today and glory in the hereafter.

Meekness is not weakness, but strength and power under control. Meekness is best visualized by watching a powerful race horse that allows his master to lead him wherever his master wants him to go and to do whatever his master wants him to do. Meekness describes one who is submitted to their owner. A meek person is teachable, gentle and humble at heart (*Matthew 11:29*). They are quick to listen and learn.

The meek refrain from responding to offenses with harshness (*Proverbs 15:1*). They accept insults and bear them patiently always ready to forgive and restore broken relationships, because of the love God has put in their hearts. They are long-suffering, never taking revenge by paying back evil for evil for injustices done to them, but believe God will deal with their offenders (*Romans 12:19*).

A meek person is not one to never express anger, but gets angry at the right people for the right reason at the right time (*Ephesians 4:26; Proverbs 16:32; Mark 3:5*). They do not respond with anger for insults or injuries to themselves, but to others. They think more highly of others than themselves. They are yielded to God, not to anyone or anything that would compromise righteousness.

Three examples of meekness are seen in Moses, David, and Peter: Moses, who was said to be "the meekest man on the face of the earth" (*Numbers 12:3*), stood before the most powerful man in the world, Pharaoh, and said, "Let my people go!" He could have used the power God had given to eliminate the complaining, idol worshipping Israelites, but he didn't. He used that

power as God directed, while exhibiting self-control. David could have taken Saul's life, but instead exercised self-control and honored the position of his king. Peter, full of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, took his stand and preached Christ, resulting in about 3,000 souls being saved (*Acts 2:14-41*). Then later as a prisoner, when standing before the high priest, council and all the senate to answer their charges said, "We must obey God rather than man" (*Acts 5:29*).

God's instruction to David in Psalm 37:3-11 best sums up the attitude and action that Jesus is looking for in His disciples: ***"Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace."***

Jesus closes this Beatitude stating that those who are meek will inherit the earth. All God is and all He has made belong to the meek. They inherit the fullness of His blessing. In Psalm 37, the inheritance is a physical inheritance of the land for those who fear the Lord, wait on Him as to when to take possession of it and live righteously to maintain it. In Matthew 5, the inheritance is a spiritual inheritance in the form of soul satisfaction and contentment in Christ now (*1 Corinthians 3:21-23*) and in eternity later (*2 Timothy 2:11-12; Revelation 5:10; 21:1-7*).

Reflection:

(1) When you are wronged, do you exercise meekness, patience and self-control looking to God for comfort and grace?

(2) Can you accept instruction and criticism from others without being provoked?

(3) Are you long-suffering and willing to allow God to deal with injustices done to you?

(4) Is meekness a picture of you?

Prayer:

Ask God to do a work in you so your **attitudes** reflect the character of Christ and your **actions** are carried out in the power of the Spirit and under His control.

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