

Blessed are the Meek

Series on Walking & Talking – Prayer & Holiness

- Communication With God
- Living in Light of Holiness
- Pictures of Practical Holiness – Life in this Kingdom
- Drawn to Demonstrated Power & Authority Jesus explains
 - Poor in Spirit
 - Those Who Mourn

Blessed are the Meek

Matthew 5:1-4 *“Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and 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 will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”*”

1. What Is Meekness?

- websters – “enduring injury with patience, without resentment, deficient in spirit or courage, not violent or strong.”

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- biblically the word translated meek:
 - James 3:13 – *gentleness*
 - Matthew 11:29 – *gentle*
 - Numbers 12:1-4 – *humble*

* Picture Found in Psalm 37:5-11 *“Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off, **but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.** A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found. **But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.**”*

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- parallel between vs. 9 and 11 – inherit the land (earth)

a) Trust is In God

- deep confidence God is for you not against you
- belief God will vindicate, care for, deal with

b) Commit Your Way to God

- discovered God is trustworthy - can trust God to sustain and guide them in everything
- decision to surrender, allow God to lead, trust becomes action steps – your way God.

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c) Quiet Before God, Waiting on Him

- not lazy – but an absence of frenzy, steady calm, ability to allow God's timing & design

d) Don't Fret about The Wicked

- things are in God's hands, willing to wait and see how His goodness and power will work things out

* So Far – the meek: begin by trusting God, surrenders to God's way confident He will use His power and mercy to care for us, waits patiently and quietly for the outcome of circumstances and trials, and does not give way to anger and anxiety over opposition and injustice.

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2. How Does Meekness Look In Life?

- James 1:19-21 *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and **humbly** accept the word planted in you, which can save you.”*

- *“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” NKJ*

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a) attentive posture

- quick to listen – open, teachable, receptive

b) careful posture

- slow to speak – well chosen words, truth not opinion matters, weighing the impact

c) patient posture

- slow to anger – open to correction and rebuke, ready to examine, able to leave things in God's hands
- not an absence of passion or conviction, indignation at evil or wrong, but ability to trust God

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d) repentant posture

- get rid of (lay aside) moral filth & evil – active in seeing self and seeking holiness
- repent – recognize, confess, accept, turn from
- note that action is implied

e) grounded posture

- humbly accept (receive with meekness) the word
- hardest in our culture today!

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* “no one has to accept my opinion, and I don’t have to accept anyone else's!”

* Often refuse to submit our opinions or convictions to the light of scripture – choosing to believe our experience or feelings over the absolutes of scripture.

* “A man was meant to be doubtful about himself but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. Nowadays the part of a man that a man does assert is exactly the part he ought not to assert – himself. The part he doubts is exactly the part he ought not to doubt – the Divine Reason...” GK Chesterton – (Orthodoxy pp.31)

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* Robert Bellah (Habits of the Heart) “It is an understanding of life generally hostile to older ideas of moral order. Its center is the autonomous individual, presumed able to choose the roles he will play and commitments he will make, not on the basis of higher truths but according to the criterion of life-effectiveness as the individual judges it.” (pp 47)

* grounded posture is one that seeks to be established on solid foundations. Truth is the steel for the structure of life, and it is sought, carefully considered, contended for, used as a basis for life choices!

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3. They Shall Inherit the Earth

- psalms – inherit the land, enjoy great peace
- natural inclination – defend ourselves, retaliate, protect
- earth and all that is in it belongs to God
- those who place their trust in God, live according to His way, allow God to deliver, entrust protection and vindication to Him, are careful to listen, speak with restraint, open to correction, patient, building on truth – they are wise, respected, trusted, promised both current and future inheritance of what is God's to give!

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So What

1. Starts with a Decision

- where will I place my trust
- whose way will rule in my life
- will I wait for God to deliver or grab for myself?
- can I entrust protection, vindication, injustice to God ?
- journey that begins with a decision

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2. Continues With Adopting a Posture

- attentive – listen to what is said
- careful – with my words and audience
- patient – slow to anger, allow God to work
- repentant – confessing, accepting, turning
- grounded – scripture is the rule, adjust my attitudes and actions to God's truth

3. Brings Blessing that's God's to Give

- enjoy my inheritance God's way