



THE BEATITUDES

BEAUTIFUL CHARACTER
FORMED BY CHRIST

PT. 2:
BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

MEEK, NOT WEAK

A while ago, while watching the show "Cops", I saw a police officer go to a call to help someone out and the person he was caring for just flipped out, acting incredibly rude, incredibly harsh and mean. And I saw, in that officer, the most impressive display of care and patience I have ever seen. This officer not only acted kindly toward this person, but even after as the camera's rolled you could see - this man was the definition of "meek in heart." Now, meekness is not weakness. This rather large, physically fit officer was anything but weak. He was meek, and acted like so many, including myself, could only hope to act in the face of anger and hostility. The word used for "meek" in Matthew 5:5 is the same word that Jesus uses to talk of his heart "gentle and "humble- or meek" in heart. It is a "combination of patience, gentleness, and a complete submission to the will of God." (Kevin DeYoung)



Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. (5:5)

"Meekness is a grace whereby we are enabled by the Spirit of God, to moderate our angry passions. Meekness has a divine beauty and sweetness in it. This meekness consists in three things: the bearing of injuries, the forgiving of injuries, the recompensing good for evil." (Scotty Smith)

Meekness is not weakness. It is finding strength in the Lord and not in our own power. It is finding hope and fulfillment in God and not in the power that the world holds dear. It is a heart posture that is gentle and patient toward others because it knows the gentleness and patience that characterizes God's heart toward us.

//BLESSED ARE THE MEEK//

What does it mean that "meek will inherit the earth"? Jesus is saying something that most people would expect to be reversed. Even those who were waiting for the Messiah were waiting for someone to come in absolute power, not realizing Jesus power was a different kind of power - one that had the power to transform hearts. When I was a young boy, I knew that meekness was important but when a person is being run over by others, "trampled underfoot" in a sense, meekness became a quality that was not appealing. But in Jesus Kingdom, we get our spiritual inheritance through meekness, and not might. D.A. Carson reminds us that meekness does not mean wishy-washy, indecisive, timid, or unsure. "Meekness is a controlled desire to see the other's interests advance ahead of one's own." He says, so often we are too concerned about justifying ourselves and worrying about how we look than about encouraging and "building up" one another. This stands in stark contrast to our world that says "get what you can, look out for number one, and even "only the strong survive." No, in God's Kingdom, the meek, gentle, humble, not only survive, but they thrive, relating well to others while also treasuring not what the world treasures, but the lasting treasure of heaven.

So, why do the meek "inherit the earth"? First, those who follow Jesus in meekness have "all things in Christ")1 Cor. 3:21-23). They don't need power, riches, or all those other things to "get ahead". This makes a person far more selfless with others, and helps us realize that one day we will inherit the earth, so we don't need to do whatever we can to get it now. For many people today, there is a wild political tribalism that seeks the power to influence the culture. For Christians who have engaged in this, most of them have done away with "meekness" in favour of might, and in so doing have lost opportunities to tell people of Jesus Christ along the way. But it is not political victory that will last, but Jesus Kingdom, and so we are called to be meek, gentle, humble, in all of our ways. And Jesus is saying this among people who thought he would be an "overthrowing-the-Romans political ruler" kind of Messiah, not realizing that He will be more than that. He will be the King of all people and the King of our hearts. One day, the meek, and those whose hearts are like Jesus, will inherit the earth, as it should be, with Him as King.

Let me ask two questions before you reflect on God's Word further. Would you like to be known as meek?

And further, John Stott asks this: "Think of gentle, humble, considerate, and courteous people you have known. Why did you find them admirable?"



REFLECT. PRAY. ACT

Reflect: Read *Psalms* 37. John Stott remarks that this Psalm captures well what it means that the meek will inherit the earth (37:11). Reflect on these questions (taken from John Stott's study on the Beatitudes).

1. Pick out the verbs in this psalm. How do they express meekness?
2. How does "fretting" contradict an attitude of meekness?
3. What is the relationship between meekness and trust in God?
4. Which promises in this Psalm mean the most to you right now? Why?

Pray: Staying in *Psalms* 37, grab a verse to help lead you in prayer for meekness (consider verses 5-7, 8-9, 10-11, 23-24, 30-31, 37-38)

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in these words. To find rest in Christ, and to stop fretting about (fill in the blank). Pray for an attitude of gentleness and humility in the face of the evil of our world.

Act: How do we act in meekness? I'm sure we will get opportunities everyday. Write down the opportunities you had to show meekness and patience at the end of each day this week. Pray that God will shape you into a meek and gentle person, and think about a word or thought from Colossians 3:12 and James 1:19-21 that might help you be meek in those situations, and pray for it!