

Survival of the Meekest

Matthew 5:5

Introduction

The world says: “Only the **strong** survive.”

Jesus says: “Only the **surrendered** are blessed.”

In a culture that prizes **pride**, He exalts humility.

In Rome and Greece, humility was seen as **weakness**, but Jesus calls it strength.

Big Idea: True strength is found in **yielding to God**.

What Meekness Is

Greek word: *praus* — meek, gentle, humble, strength under control.

Meek ≠ weak; it's power submitted to God.

“Meekness is the mark of a man who has been **mastered** by God.”

True strength is not domination, but **surrender**.

The Posture of Meekness

The Beatitudes progress: Poor in spirit → Mourn → Meek.

Meekness flows from repentance and **trust**.

It's not a personality; it's a **posture** before God.

“I no longer fight God's hand; I **rest** under it.”

Surrender and Submission

Surrender – internal yielding of the **will** to God.

Submission – external **obedience** flowing from surrender.

“If you submit without surrender, obedience feels like **slavery**.”

James 4:7 – “Submit yourselves, therefore, to God.”

The meek are not **spineless** — they are surrendered and strong.

Meekness in Action

Begins **vertically** with God, then moves **horizontally** toward others.

Meekness changes how we respond to people:

Not **retaliating** when wronged.

Responding with **gentleness** instead of anger.

Trusting **God** to defend our name.

“Moses was very meek.” – Numbers 12:3

Meekness doesn’t act from pride or revenge but from **love** and trust.

The Model of Meekness: Jesus

“I am **gentle** and lowly in heart.” – Matthew 11:28–29

His power was restrained by **mercy**.

“When He was reviled, He did not **revile** in return.” – 1 Peter 2:23

“The posture most natural to Him is not a pointed finger but **open** arms.”

The **cross** is the ultimate picture of meekness: power surrendered for sinners.

The Promise of Meekness

“They shall **inherit** the earth.” – Matthew 5:5 / Psalm 37:11

Present reward: peace, joy, and contentment in God’s sovereignty.

Future reward: **reign** with Christ in the new creation (Revelation 21–22).

The proud grasp for the world; the meek **inherit** it by grace.

Reflection and Response

(Answers will vary – open reflection questions)

1. What relationships in my life reveal a lack of gentleness, patience, or humility?
2. How do I respond when others wrong or misunderstand me?
3. What step of surrender or obedience is God calling me to take this week?