

MATTHEW 5 - THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.”

MATTHEW 5.5

praus - mild, gentle, humble

- *used to describe a wild animal that has been tamed and made gentle*
- *in the human sphere, it describes the person who disciplines himself to be gentle instead of severe, nonviolent instead of violent*

► The much-maligned meekness—

Meekness = weakness. The English word, *meek*, originated with an Old Norse word, *mjark*, that was akin to *soft*. If you don't stand up for yourself, no one else will. Good guys finish last. It is the “go-getters” who get things done.

Jesus embodies the Beatitudes. They are his personality, his heart, his lifestyle—and the visible representation of the Father.

► **The meek Jesus—**

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

MATTHEW 11.28-30

► Meekness illustrated—

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

MATTHEW 11.28-30

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

JOHN 13.3-5

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 PETER 2.19-23

► The call to Christlikeness—

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

COLOSSIANS 3.12-13 ESV

“Blessed are the meek . . . ”

- ▶ Those who like Abraham can follow God and trust Him for everything, even when others leave you with the left-overs.
- ▶ Those who like Moses can hear God’s voice amidst the clamor of those speaking evil of you.
- ▶ Those who like Mary can say, “I am the Lord’s servant; He can do with me whatever He wants.”
- ▶ Those who like the disciples can count it an honor to suffer persecution for loyalty to the name of Jesus.

“for they shall inherit the earth.”

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;

do not fret when people 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 those who are evil will be destroyed,

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 peace and prosperity.

- ▶ **Meekness: anything but weakness!**
 - ▶ Trusting God especially when taken advantage of by others
 - ▶ Persevering in doing good when spoken evil of by all
 - ▶ Choosing to be quiet rather than respond in agitation
 - ▶ Remaining calm and un-agitated in the face of injustice
 - ▶ Choosing the hard road of obedience rather than the easier road of convenience or acceptance
 - ▶ Trusting the outcome of all circumstances to a real belief that God is in control