

Pursuing God's Blessing Through the Beatitudes:
"I Give Up Control – The Freedom of Total Submission"

Matt. 5:5 "Blessed are the MEEK, for they shall inherit the earth."

When you put MEEK and MILD together to attempt to describe Jesus as hymn sings; it gives a picture of someone who lacks strength.

- That is not who Jesus is. Mild is wrong thinking when it comes to understanding meekness.
- A menu listing at a restaurant indicates items may be ordered: Mild – Regular – Hot – Extra Hot.
- Our English word "Meekness" sound too much like weakness.
- If that's the case – that doesn't sound like something we want to pursue.

Jesus is telling us there are things of value we must pursue at any cost, and one of them is "Meekness."

When we research Jesus' definition of Meekness, we find it has nothing to do with weakness.

- Yet Meekness is crucial to make progress in the Christian life.

The Latin root for "Meekness" is *'mansuetus'* from two words: Manu = "The hand", and assuetus = "Used to."

- Putting it together Meekness means – "Used to the hand."
- This is understood as in the taming of a wild animal.

The best picture of this is found when we think about an unbroken horse that is not "Used to the hand" of man.

- The horse is suspicious and cautious and uncontrollable.
- When the horse gets "Used to the hand," its 1000-1500 lbs. of wild passion are subdued and its strength is brought under control and he comes to peace and is useable for a purpose.

The Bible compares our fallen nature to the impulse of wild animals:

Jer. 2:23-24 "...you are a swift camel entangling her ways, a wild donkey accustomed to the wilderness, that sniffs the wind in her passion..."

- These are not flattering descriptions but reveal our human nature is like wild animals – untamed.

- We have God given strengths but they are not properly directed or controlled for useful purposes and the energy we have is used for unproductive and destructive ways.

**To become useful for and to God's purpose; we need to get "used to the hand."
Your strengths will be harnessed for good purposes and you will be peaceful.**

Meekness is best described as "Controlled Strength" Meekness can:

- Tame the temper
- Subdue self
- Calm the passions
- Manage the impulses of the heart
- Bring order out of chaos of the soul

The person characterized by Meekness exhibits the Fruit of the Spirit listed in Gal. 5.

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Forgiving
- Contentedness

Delivering us from:

- Pride
- Harshness
- Aggression
- Vengeance
- Turmoil
- Self-opinions
- Over-bearing
- Short tempered

Jesus is calling us to enter into something beautiful by obtaining Meekness:

- Impulsiveness will be subdued
- Control over anger
- Turn harsh words & sharp put-downs to kindness and gentleness
- Leads you to contentment
- Positions you to become useful in the hand of God through difficult situations

Meekness Comes Through Submitting:

“Meekness is strength brought under control through submission!”

English word- “Submission” = “Mission” & “Sub”

Submission means “You put **your mission** under [sub] the mission of something or someone else.”

- Its only when the horse submits to the bit and the bridle that it can have any chance of winning a race!
- Winning is only possible when strengths are brought under control and that happens through submission.
- Wild horses or humans – don’t win races.

Meekness is controlled strength that comes through submission to:

- God’s Word
- God’s Will
- God’s People

1. Submitting to God’s Word:

James 1:21 “Receive with **meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

- You choose to place yourself under the authority of Scripture, allowing God to shape what you believe and direct what you do through the Bible.
- Every believer should have a Biblical World View – meaning life in every aspect must be understood and lived by the principles of truth revealed in Scripture.

2Tim. 3:16 “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man/woman of God by be adequate, equipped for every good work.”

- A congregation where the Bible is highly valued and clearly taught is where we must be so that we are fed by the Word.
- But such a place is a dangerous place to be because we all are responsible for putting what we hear into practice:

James 1:22 “Show yourselves to be doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude/deceive themselves.”

- The self-willed, uncontrollable, non Meek person hears what God says through scripture:
 - But takes as their right to disagree: “God may say that, but I don’t believe it.”
“I’m not ready to move in that direction and obey that.”
“What I want must be what God says.”

The person who will become Meek and submit themselves to God will inherit the earth!

2. Submitting to God’s Will:

There will be times in your life when God puts you in a place that you would not have chosen!

- The work place your in
- The family you’re in – as a child within that family, you chose your spouse.
- The church you’re in
- The difficult circumstances you’re in
- The health you’re experiencing

So, what does it mean for your strength to be brought under control as you submit yourself to Him?

Come to a garden with me called Gethsemane. It’s late and its dark, and three men are asleep on the ground. There’s another man there, as we draw nearer to Him, we see the man’s upper body is draped over a large stone. He is sweating profusely, and in agony of soul, He cries out, “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Matt. 26:39

Frame this picture and give it the title “**MEEKNESS.**”

This is meekness in its essence: Jesus Christ submitting Himself to the will of the Father at unimaginable cost – the death by crucifixion!

Christ now calls you and me to the submission when He declares: “**Blessed are the Meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**”

Paul expressed Meekness in 1Cor. 15:30 “...I die daily.”

3. Submitting to God's People:

There is a third dimension to Meekness:

God calls us to submit to His people –

Eph. 5:21 “And be submitted on one another in the fear/reverence of the Lord.”

- This may be the harder of the three areas we must submit to in order to become MEEK.

When God's people are filled with the Holy Spirit - Distinguishing marks:

- Joy – sing to one another in psalms, hymns, spiritual songs – v. 19
- Thankfulness – v. 20
- Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ v. 21

Our Western culture is independent, autonomous, self-directed – disconnected; even as Christians.

Statistics show many Christians float from church to church never connected and engaging with a congregation to reach maturity.

- But, to whom do you submit - if not a member of a local church?
- How can you obey the teachings of Eph. 5:21 if you're not committed to a gathered community of believers?
- Many say they are accountable to a small group; **but there's a big difference between a group of friends chosen by you and a congregation gathered by God.**

Meekness grows through the discipline of committed relationships in the body of Christ.

- In a world of individualism - how can you submit to others if you are not a committed member of a local church?
- Meekness is revealed in a congregation, at work, in a home, in a relationship when you don't get your own way! Your impulse is to leave, run, find another group, marriage partner, work place; but God calls us to submit to them.
- This is where maturity happens and MEEKNESS is formed and you become blessed by God.
- How can you practice submission in your life if the pattern is to walk away when others upset or offend or disappoint you?
- Meekness will grow as you CHOOSE to submit yourself to others when you do not get your own way.

Jesus said: “BLESSED ARE THE MEEK – THOSE WILLING TO SUBMIT THEMSELVES TO GOD, HIS WORD, HIS PEOPLE; FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.”