

# Thursday Devotional

January 21, 2021

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” – Matthew 5:5*

I don't know about y'all but I like to feel in control and I like to feel strong. Pridefully, I like the feeling of working out and the feeling like I've used by muscles. I like the feeling of things going as according to plan. I like the feeling of being at full strength. Yet, as we look at this blessing from God in Matthew 5:5, Jesus is saying that we are blessed when we are meek. The exact contrast of feeling at full strength. So the question is, what does it mean to be meek?

The first place to start is with what it does not mean. It does not mean to be idle or passive in certain situations. It does not mean to lay down and be run over by people. It does not mean to be easy-going or even to be nice. So what does it mean? Meekness means to have a true view of yourself in the sight of God. The amazing thing about the Beatitudes given to us by Jesus is that they build on each other like lego's stacked on top of each other. To have a true view of yourself begins by being poor in spirit and then to mourn over your sin. Meekness, following in order of the first two Beatitudes, then is to have a gentle and lowly nature. Jesus calls himself meek and lowly in Matthew 11:28-30. That does not sound like a positive thing and yet Jesus is saying we are to follow after Him. We are also told in Philippians 2 to “have this mind among ourselves”. The mind being described in this passage is the mind of Christ, both in his humility, but also in his meekness.

Meekness means to be humble, patient, and compassionate. Look at the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. He humbled himself by becoming a man on earth. He humbled himself to the point of death on a cross. He showed consistent patience with those around Him (especially His disciples). Compassion was the very heart of Christ's ministry and we can see it throughout the Gospels. He shows compassion to the least of these.

The wonderful thing is, when we follow Christ's example by being meek, we receive the same compassion and patience that he gave his follows described earlier. When we are meek, we are told that we will inherit the earth. What does this mean? It means that meekness not only humbles us but gives us the most contentment and satisfaction that we can find. When we are meek we are no longer looking to ourselves or to this world for satisfaction, but we are now turning our eyes to Jesus. For what is meekness but a work of the Holy Spirit.

I cannot emphasize enough that we can never make ourselves meek. As Martyn Lloyd Jones reminds us, *“Nothing but the Holy Spirit can humble us, nothing but the Holy Spirit can make us poor in spirit and make us mourn because of our sinfulness and produce in us this true, right view of self and give us this very mind of Christ Himself.”* But remember what is the purpose of the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount? They are given to us to define the Christian life. They are describing those that claim to be in Christ, and if in Christ then we have received the Holy Spirit. This is a blessing from God to be considered meek. What a gracious and wonderful God we serve. Let us strive for meekness with the help of the Holy Spirit.

For further reading: Philippians 2:1-11