



## **TOPIC: BLESSED ARE THE MEEK**

Sub-topic: For they shall inherit the earth (Title)

**What meekness is not!**

**Timid, docile or mild**

**What it is!**

*Meekness is trust in God that leads to committing all our ways, freeing us to cast all our cares (anxieties, frustrations, plans, relationships, employment or lack of it, and our health) waiting patiently for the Lord's perfect timing, his power, and his grace to work things out for our good and for His Glory, where vindication is of the Lord amidst all opposition, which leads to a teachable, reasonable and open to correction **ATTITUDE**, and this is all done in His wisdom.*

**Text: Matthew 5:3-4**

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*

**cf: Psalm 37:5-11**

*"The meek shall possess the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity."*

**The Parallel:**

v. 9b *"Those who **WAIT** for the Lord shall **POSSESS** the **LAND**."*

v.11 *"The **MEEK** shall **POSSESS** the **LAND**."*

So the conclusion here is that the meek are people who *wait for the Lord*.

**BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WAIT FOR THE LORD?**

Verses 5–8 give us a perfect picture of those who wait on the Lord.

*5) Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.*

*6) He will bring forth your vindication as the light, and your right as the noonday.*

*7) Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!*

*8) Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.*

What are these people like who, according to verse 11, are meek and, according to verse 9, wait for the Lord?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>v. 5   they commit their ways to the Lord and trust in the Lord.</b></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>v.7   says, they are quiet or still before the Lord and do not fret over others who prosper.</b></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>v. 8   says, they refrain from anger and forsake wrath.</b></li></ul>

## **A Picture of the Meekness**

What does meekness look like?

### **1. Meekness Trusts in God**

Meek people trust God (verse 5b).

- To work for them in vindication against opposition
- Biblical meekness is rooted in the deep confidence that God is for you and not against you.

### **2. Meekness Commits One's Way to God**

Meek people commit their way to the Lord (verse 5a).

The Hebrew (Galal) word for "commit" means literally to "cast", to roll like a stone.



Meek people have discovered that God is trustworthy, and so they cast their "burdens" to God.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In business and activities</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Needs (All kinds of needs)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problems (All kinds of problems)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relationships</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fears and Frustrations</li></ul>

The Meek admit that they are incapable to cope with all the complexities and all the pressures, all the challenges, and the obstacles of life.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trusting that God is able</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That He is able to sustain them</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Able to guide them</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• And protect them.</li></ul>

### **3. The Meek Are Quiet Before God and Wait for Him (v.7a)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meek people are quiet or still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meek people's steady quietness is based on their knowledge that God is Omnipotent.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• God is in control of all their affairs, and that His gracious is sufficient.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meek people have a quiet steadiness about their lives in the midst of upheaval.</li></ul>

### **4. The Meek Do not Fret over the Wicked (v.7-8)**

Meek people don't fret themselves over the wicked that prosper in their way.

Meek people refrain from anger.

So here is the Picture of Meekness, based on Psalm 37:11 and Matthew 5,

i)	Meekness trusts God
ii)	Meekness commits to God
iii)	Meekness waits on God
iv)	Meekness does not give way to Anger amidst opposition

Meekness has very much to do with God.

### ***The Example of Moses<sup>1</sup> in Numbers 12:1-4***

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moses marries a black woman</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aaron and Miriam complain</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moses commits his cause to God and does not engage with A and M (Moses given an <b>MDE</b>-the Meekness Dude on Earth)</li></ul>

*What happens in the following verses is that the Lord rebukes Miriam and Aaron and vindicates his servant Moses.*

The Picture continues...

### **5. Meekness Refrains from Revenge and Defensiveness (Numbers 12:1-4)**

- Meekness means committing one's cause to God and allowing him to defend, protect and

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<sup>1</sup>*Numbers 12:1-4 describes an occasion when Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses severely. Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman; and they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it. Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth. And suddenly the Lord said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting."*



vindicate you.

- There is no need to fret over harsh, unkind, critical words when God is our Banner, our Defender.
- Meekness is the power to absorb adversity and criticism without lashing back.

## Receiving the Word with Meekness

### 6. Meekness is Teachable (James 1:19-21)

- Meek People are Slow to Anger (Absorbing All the criticism), Slow to speak, and quick to listen (v. 19).
- Meek People recognize their limitations in knowledge and their fallibility in thought.

### 7. Meek People are Wise and Reasonable (James 3:13-7)<sup>2</sup>

#### The Meekness of Wisdom

Wisdom in the Bible is never a merely intellectual affair.

It is a disposition of the heart as well as ideas in the head.

Meekness and wisdom is one thing, peaceable, gentle, and open to reason.

#### Modern Culture's Dislocation of Humility

G. K. Chesterton spoke about the dislocation of humility. He said,

*What we suffer from today is humility in the wrong place. Modesty has moved from the organ of ambition. Modesty has settled upon the organ of conviction; where it was never meant to be. A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. Nowadays the part of a man that a man does assert is exactly the part*

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*"Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom." This is a very beautiful phrase, "the meekness of wisdom." The truly wise people are also the truly meek people. "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason . . . "*

*he ought not to assert—himself. The part he doubts is exactly the part he ought not to doubt—the Divine Reason. (Orthodoxy, p. 31f.)*

We are no longer on the road. We have arrived. The secular world makes choices based on relativism rather than on the basis of an ultimate standard of truth. It's all relative.

### **Meekness is Passionate About the Truth**

So let me say it again: the meekness of wisdom is open to reason—it is quick to listen to the reasons given by others for their opinions, and it is willing to give reasons for its own opinions.

- It cares about truth and whether others agree.

And therefore it may become passionate and forceful.<sup>3</sup>

- But it is always a servant.
- It is always submissive to a higher standard of truth.
- It is always willing to change to bring its opinions into line with truth.
- Meekness knows its own fallibility.

But for that reason it takes debate and argument so seriously. It wants to discern its own errors and forsake them.

### **The Full Picture of Biblical Meekness**

Now let's stand back and see if we can see the whole portrait.

1. Meekness begins when we put our trust in God.
2. Then, because we trust him, we commit our ways to him.
3. We cast onto him our anxieties, or frustrations, our plans, our relationships, our jobs, our health.
4. And then we wait patiently for the Lord. We trust his timing and his power and his grace to work things out in the best way for his glory and for our good.

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<sup>3</sup> Jesus in the Temple and his dealings with the Pharisees and sometimes with His own Disciples



5. Trust God to vindicate us in the midst of opposition
6. Teachable, reasonable and open to correction (We are slow to speak and quick to listen)
7. Meekness is Wise

Meekness begins with trusting in God and ends with God's wisdom. And therefore whenever we see a person like that, we give God the glory and the aim of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount is fulfilled.

## **They Shall Inherit the Earth**

Blessed are the meek, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

This is the way the promise works in verse 12:

*"Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

This promise that the meek shall inherit the earth is intended by the Lord to give us the strength to endure in meekness when the natural inclination would be to defend ourselves or retaliate or give way to fretful anger.

### **All Things Are Yours**

The Corinthians and the whole Church are reminded by Paul in 1Corinthians 3:18–23<sup>4</sup> that "ALL THINGS ARE OURS" The Corinthians were boasting in different teachers and in their worldly wisdom. There is no need to boast and to be proud about ministries, places etc.

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<sup>4</sup>Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." So let no one boast of men. **For all things are yours**, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

**Now notice the logic in verse 21: Let no one boast of men, FOR all things are yours.**

When the whole earth and everything in it is yours. If that is true then one needs no vain pleasures of keeping up with the Jones or trying to be better than they are, because God has already made you an heir of the world?

Would I feel the need to brag that my house is bigger than your house if I knew that my Father owned the city and I was the beneficiary in his will?

*"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."*

References:

John Piper, Desiring God

Blue Letter Bible

Biblegateway