

The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-16

The Character and Witness of the Citizens of the Kingdom

I. A willing Servant – Blessed are the meek (gentle) for they shall inherit the earth (5:5).

A. Meekness is not weakness as many people imagine.

1. It must not be confused with being wishy-washy
2. A meek person is not necessarily indecisive or timid
3. A meek person is not a person who is pushed around as many suppose.
4. Meekness is “power under control.”

B. How does meekness differ from being poor in spirit?

1. Poverty of spirit has to do with one’s assessment of oneself with respect to God.
2. Meekness has to do with one’s relationship with God and with others.
3. Meekness is a controlled desire to see someone else’s interests advance ahead of one’s own.
4. Numbers 12:3 – Moses was the meekest man who ever lived and is demonstrated in this chapter by his refusal to defend himself, by his controlled self-commitment to the Lord when his person and privilege were under attack.
5. Matt. 11: 28 – we need to learn from Jesus who was meek.

C. The Scriptures make much of meekness because it is a picture of Christ.

1. 2 Cor. 10:1 – Paul’s appeal
2. Gal. 5:22 – a fruit of the Spirit
3. Col. 3:12 – part of our outward apparel (conduct)
4. 1 Peter 3:15 – our answer to others’ questions
5. James 1:19-21 – slow to speak and slow to become angry; be under control (meekness)

D. Meekness prevents us from thinking we are the center of the universe.

1. A materialistic world will oppose meekness
2. Materialistic societies say “grab what you can get”
3. A meek person “does not think more highly of himself than he ought” (Romans 12: 3)
4. The blessing of inheriting the earth is a devastating contradiction to the philosophical materialism of this world.
5. Only the genuinely meek will be content because our egos are not so inflated that we think that we deserve more.

E. Progression of Scripture.

1. Phil. 2:1-11 – Jesus is the picture of meekness
2. Matt. 20:25-28 – Jesus served others
3. Matt. 26:47-58 – entrusted Himself to God; meekness always has another option (John 18:1-11).
4. 2 Cor. 12:9-10 – in our moments of weakness God is most powerful.
5. Genesis 50:15-21 – freedom to love and serve those who hate us
6. Luke 6:27-38 – freedom to relate to others in an unexpected way
7. 1 Peter 2:23 – submit to men but entrust yourself to God
8. 1 Peter 4:19 – continue to do good and serve others
9. 1 Peter 1:1-6 – inheritance is where God is
10. Rev. 5:8-10 – we become a Kingdom and servants for God
11. 2 Cor. 3:4-6 – adequacy to be a servant

F. Summary:

When we subject our selves to the Lordship of Christ, we also subject ourselves to His power. Meekness is living according to the power of God, allowing it to flow through us continually in our relationships with the world’s system and the people within it. We trust God for the fulfillment of His Kingdom within us and around us as He delivers us by His infinite power and resources.