

## Teachings of Jesus

### Blessed Are the Meek

#### Matthew 5:4

### Introduction

The third beatitude in our series on the Teachings of Jesus is "Blessed are the Meek." The teachings of Jesus are a paradox compared to our human wisdom and thought patterns. Jesus seems to turn everything upside down. He says:

- The last shall be first.
- It's better to give than to receive.
- To die is to live.
- To lose is to find.
- To be rich is to be poor.
- To be strong is to be weak.
- To rule is to serve.

Life in the Kingdom of Heaven is the opposite of what our world teaches and believes.

The people who listened to Jesus wanted a change. They longed for a Messiah who would supernaturally restore the Kingdom of Israel. They believed that God would send a Messiah who would wipe out the Roman rule in Palestine. Even the disciples believed this. In Acts chapter 1, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ([Acts 1:6 NKJV](#))

Their mental and physical connection to this world blinded them spiritually. Jesus' response is John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." ([John 18:36 NKJV](#))

He's speaking to a group that felt the Kingdom should be taken by force! But the words Jesus speaks to this crowd of people are not militant at all. In Matthew Chapter 5, Jesus says, Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

What kind of meek and mild followers can make a difference in a culture that promotes power and might as the key to true success? Who are the meek, and how can they possibly inherit the earth?

### I. The Meek

In 1 Corinthians chapter 1, Paul says, "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are

mighty;" (1 Corinthians 1:26-27 NKJV)

Meekness is not weakness. It is not indecisiveness. It is not timidity or being unsure of yourself. It is not being mild-mannered or hesitant to act or speak. It is not cowardice or spinelessness. It is not peace at any price and cost. It's not lacking in confidence or being shy. It is not being introverted or simply well-mannered. It is not being politically correct or socially inept.

The Greek word for meekness means to be gentle and humble, to be considerate, and to be courteous. The Greek language used it in three different ways.

- Doctors used it to describe a soothing medicine that would take away pain.
- Sailors used it to describe a cool, fresh breeze that refreshes.
- Farmers used it to describe a horse useful for riding or plowing.

Meekness is power under control. Meekness knows how to direct force and energy in the right direction. If meekness means power under control, it means strength and energy are channeled in the right direction. In Philippians Chapter 2, Paul describes the life of Christ as self-emptying, personal humility, and a brokenness before God that desires to accomplish God's ultimate purpose.

As followers of Christ, we willingly acknowledge our sinfulness and recognize the power of Christ to change us. In a spiritual sense, we have everything even though we possess nothing. In a literal sense, it is having nothing even though you possess everything. Psalm 37 says, 'Fret not because of evildoers.' Meekness causes us to do just that! Meekness influences your attitude about life. It causes us to consider how our attitudes and behaviors affect others.

Meekness also influences your attitude towards the Word of God. James 1:19 encourages us to receive the Word of God with meekness. When God the Holy Spirit convicts and challenges us, we should accept it and do something about it. It doesn't mean applying the word of God to the person beside you, or behind you, or someone you know in your family. It means applying it to yourself, your own soul, and to your own life.

Meekness influences your attitude towards your brothers and sisters in Christ. Meekness even affects your attitude towards those you disagree! 2 Timothy 2 says, "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth,"(2 Timothy 2:24-25 NKJV)

Are you even-tempered and full of self-control? Or do you fly off the handle if something doesn't go the way you think it should? Do you create tension and strife or diffuse it? Do you react with hostility and anger or with assurance and poise?

Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek."

## II. The Inheritance

The US Postal Service posted this warning on its Website: If you receive a notification in the mail from an 'estate locator' saying there is an unclaimed inheritance waiting for you, beware. You could be the target of a slick con artist."

It seems thousands of people each year receive a notice in the mail saying, 'A relative of yours has died and left you an inheritance.' As a result, many mail in a \$30 or more fee for an 'estate report' that supposedly explains where the inheritance is located and how to claim it. They were all sadly disappointed. All respondents received the same report—and no one inherited anything.

Schemes like this prey on people's natural desire to receive an inheritance. Maybe that long-lost rich uncle you never knew has died and left you a fortune! They say if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is! And yet, the Bible says in Proverbs 13:22, "One who is good will leave an inheritance to his children's children."

The words of Jesus in this beatitude echo King David's words in Psalm 37:11, "The meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." What kind of inheritance are you going to receive? Do you think you'll "inherit any property"? What an interesting thought! But how can we be sure this is not just another crafty scheme designed to deprive us of something we already have?

The earth is God's wonderful creation. He made it. He owns it. And he can give it to whoever he chooses. He writes in Psalm 2:8, "Ask of me, that I may give nations as your inheritance and the ends of the earth as your own possession." When Jesus said that the meek "shall inherit the earth," he did so in good faith and has the proper authority to fulfill his promise.—Matthew 28:18.

Everywhere you look today, it seems that the aggressive and lawless are gaining the upper hand and are taking whatever they want. Where do the meek come into the picture? Serious problems plague the earth, and its resources are being exploited by the greedy and powerful. Will there even be an earth worth inheriting? Jesus made this promise so there will be something worth inheriting!

God created the earth for a specific purpose. In Isaiah 45 it says, "For this is what the LORD says—

He who created the heavens, He is God;

He who fashioned and made the earth, He founded it;

He did not create it to be empty but formed it to be inhabited—

He says: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.

God's purpose for the earth is to be our eternal home and His headquarters.

When Adam and Eve willfully disobeyed God by breaking the command that had been given to them, they, in reality, turned their back on the one who provided them with everything that they had. (Genesis 3:6)

They lost their beautiful Paradise home not only for themselves but for the rest of us as well. (Romans 5:12) But did the first couple's disobedience change God's purpose in creating the earth? God could have annihilated them. But Psalm 105:8 says, "He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations.

God is faithful to his word. In Revelation 21:4, John tells us that in the promised new world, God "will wipe out every tear from our eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore."

What Jesus promises is an earth that is truly a Paradise. The transformation of the earth into a paradise will take place under a government that exercises its dominion from heaven. In the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus is the King! That Kingdom will "bring to ruin those ruining the earth." Those who choose citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven will inherit the New Heavens and the New Earth.

Jesus knows what he's talking about when he says, "Happy are the spirit-controlled ones since they will inherit the earth." In his New Testament Wordbook, William Barclay writes, "There is gentleness in the work meek, but behind the gentleness there is the strength of steel."

God has a special blessing of inheritance for those who act in faith instead of reacting to their circumstances. And the benefits are enormous! Jeremiah writes in Chapter 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

### **III. The Blessing**

The blessing begins with yielding your will to the will of the Spirit. It's allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and control your life. He helps us to learn how to rule our emotions instead of letting our emotions rule us.

The Holy Spirit teaches us how to direct our energies in a disciplined and productive way. It's a blessing not to overreact to things? The blessing of meekness keeps us from extremes in our attitudes and behaviors. We learn to lay aside harsh attitudes and judgments towards others. When we become Holy Spirit-controlled, we learn to be even-tempered and begin to find that faith flourishes before us.

The self-made, self-sufficient see no need to trust anyone else. But the meek are quick to acknowledge and accept God's guidance and supervision. The meek have a unique ability to see life from a broader perspective and find it easier to trust God's timing. It is the meek person who discovers that God is near to those of a contrite heart and a humble spirit. A person can even be poor in material possessions and still gain an eternal inheritance because of their Christ-likeness.

Even in this life, the meek enjoy the blessing of God. The blessing of the meek is that they are approachable, self-giving, and self-sacrificing. Their warmth and genuine compassion cause others to seek them out. They know the voice of God.

They exercise the fruit of the Spirit. They enjoy the blessing and peace that goes beyond knowledge.

It is the meek who learn to enjoy God and His Creation. They pause here and there to take in the beauty and blessing of God's handiwork. Too often, we emphasize attaining goals, achieving success, and pursuing a course of action that we have little or no time to enjoy the journey. The blessing of life is to enjoy the abiding presence of God that makes you aware of his hand of blessing all around you.

For the meek, the burden of work is transformed into a labor of love. The meek do not strive and are not obsessed with reaching the top because they know they're already there! They know their gifts will always make room for them. They do not engage in pettiness because they are content to follow the Holy Spirit's leading. The meek enjoy the blessing of not needing to try to impress others. They do what they do to the best of their ability and give God the glory for whatever they accomplish.

The purpose of the meek is to fulfill the purpose of God. As a true citizen of heaven, they bring a little bit of heaven into every encounter and situation of life. What you have is God's gift to you – what you make of it is your gift to God.

## **Conclusion**

Jesus teaching on being meek is not just good moral advice. It is a quality of character present only among those who recognize their complete dependence on the divine presence of God. The kind of meekness Christ teaches about is the kind that acknowledges God as the source of every blessing and the supplier of every need. The meek Jesus is talking about are the faithful. They know nothing in this life belongs to them. They see themselves as the stewards of what God owns. And they feel blessed to serve Him!

According to the world, nice people finish last! According to Jesus, the meek will inherit the earth. The world says push hard and be the best of the best. Jesus says, "Do your best and enter into my rest!"

Whenever you're around the meek, you feel like you have just been in God's presence. A sense of peace, confidence, and guidance just puts you at ease and fills you with hope. If you can hear Jesus calling you today, you will hear him saying: "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV)