

Blessed - Sermon 3 - The Meek

Matthew 5:5

OPENING ILLUSTRATION: Someone asked me how I was going to be able to preach after such a wild and unpredictable week - I said it's like this Young man who asked his Pastor if it was ok to kiss he girlfriend. Pastor said, "Son you will just have to pray about that". He took his girlfriend under an oak tree to pray, but he didn't know that a little boy had climbed up in that tree. The teenager knelt down with his girlfriend and said, "Lord, Lord, up above, can I kiss the one I love?" the little boy up in that tree said, "Sinner, Sinner down below pucker up and let her go".

So I'm going to pucker up and let 'er go today....

TEXT: Matthew 5:5 (ESV)

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

David Jeremiah has said, "Meekness, let's admit it's we don't like the word

- Coaches don't rally teams with meekness
- Executives don't send sales people into the field
- Politicians don't promise to lead by meekness
- Parents don't counsel children to develop it
- Generals don't embolden troops with a speech about meekness
- No one offers seminars on meekness training"

Someone said, "Meekness should be examined by the house committee on un-American activities."

Meekness is the English translation of the word **Prause** in the Greek.

- The word is used of a medicine which lessens a fever.
- The word is used of a tamed horse under the bridle.

ILLUSTRATION: When you are taught to ride a horse, you begin by holding the reigns in each hand, one in the right and one in the left. With the reigns in each hand you have total control over the Power of the Horse.

In the same way, Meekness has two directions -

- One toward **God** and one toward **people**.
- One **vertical** and one **horizontal**.

1. Meekness assumes **Power**

If one has no choice but to comply he or she is not meek, they are weak. Meekness is different than weakness. It suggests a voluntary self control. A willing humility.

One Pastor defined Meekness as - **Power under Control.**

David Jeremiah said, *“Meekness is the virtue of the man who acts with gentleness when it is in his power to act with severity.”*

This is a quality exemplified in the best of men and women -

Sisters you are called to adorn yourselves with this quality in 1 Peter 3:4 (ESV) ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle (praise - meek) and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.

Brothers you are called to exhibit meekness by James in - James 3:13 (ESV) ¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the **meekness** of wisdom.

Parents this is the quality with which you are to shepherd the heart of your child - We are told in **2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV)** that we are to ²⁵ correct... with gentleness. (that God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

Obviously, if you can correct, you have the greater power - but here we are instructed to correct gently.... That is, with meekness.

Consider the areas:

- Where you possess power.
- Where you are in the majority.
- Where you make the rules.
- Where you leverage influence.

Those are the areas where the virtue of meekness is most required.

God reserves His most severe punishment for those who misuse power.

ILLUSTRATION: When David sinned with Bathsheba what was the main sin he committed? Adultery? That was a great sin. Murder? Taking another man’s life is a very terrible sin... but when Nathan showed up to rebuke David... do you remember the illustration that he gave? A powerful man took the sheep of a poor man who lived next door. **It was a misuse and an abuse of his God given power.**

ILLUSTRATION: What about Sodom? What was the sin God judged them for? Sexual immorality of course, but have you not read **Ezekiel 16:49 (ESV)**

⁴⁹ Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, **but did not aid the poor and needy.**

They possessed power, but did not use it for the good of others.

Meekness is POWER under control, leveraged for the Glory of God.

Meekness assumes power...

2. Meekness is proven under Pressure

Almost every instance where the word meekness is used, the one called to be meek is under pressure not to be.

Paul instructs Titus to be meek in Titus 3:2 (ESV)

² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle (meek), and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Some people seem to move from argument to argument... perpetually in a quarrel. This is not the meek man. The meek avoids quarreling, he is gentle toward his attacker. Courteous toward all people.

If you see a man who maintains self control in the midst of an attack... that is a mighty man. The opposite is also true... ***Little pots boil over quickly***

Do you know people who you always have to be careful what you say to them or they will get offended? They walk around with a chip on their shoulder daring someone to knock it off?

ILLUSTRATION: I heard about a Pastor who passed by a woman working in her yard, but she was wearing a very revealing outfit... so he kept his eyes fixed in front of him and didn't acknowledge her. She posted on twitter, "new Pastor passed by today and didn't even speak". He saw it, so the next time he passed by he made sure to roll down the window, wave, and shout, "hi there Mrs. Jones!", she went to twitter again and said, "that new Pastor is nothing but a flirt".

You know the type! They get mad if you say something to them, they get just mad if you didn't speak.

2 Timothy 2:25 (ESV)

²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

Galatians 6:1 (ESV)

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Meekness assumes power...is Proven under Pressure...

3. Meekness rests in Providence

Matthew 5:5 is almost a direct quote of King David in **Psalm 37:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

One of the ways to really grasp the meaning of a passage is to look at the context. Let's look at the context of Psalm 37...and ask the question, how is the person of Psalm 37 able to exhibit meekness...

Psalm 37:1-10 (ESV)

¹ Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! ² For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

(Now don't fret, don't be envious, but rather....)

³ Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. ⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act. ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. ⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one 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. ⁹ For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land. ¹⁰ In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

Psalm 37:11 (ESV)

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

Psalm 37 and Matthew 5 are BOTH saying that if you commit yourself to the Lord and rest in His Providence.... He will make certain you ultimately experience victory.

This is a truth that is ultimately experience in the culmination of all things - the end times... when literally you inherit a new heaven and a new earth. But many times the meek are victorious on earth.

It has been said that *one anvil wears out many hammers.*

Given time, meekness produces victory.

The sheep and wolves have long been at enmity, but the sheep are winning though they've never taken to war. How do we explain this?

- A mother wolf has 7-10 pups each time she reproduces... yet sheep are born one at a time. Simply by procreation wolves should outnumber sheep.
- One wolf may devour a flock of sheep over time, I've never heard of a sheep winning!

However wolves are almost an extinct species and sheep are everywhere! Why meekness prevails over the long haul.

The meek sheep has made a brilliant alliance with Shepherd. The Shepherd in turn protects the sheep with his Rod and Staff, the sheep dogs like Angels battle on the sheep behalf. The sheep are lead beside calm waters, and feast on the lush valley.

Not by might, not by power, but by a right relationship with the shepherd.

Psalm 149:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble (that is the meek) with salvation. ⁵ Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds.

THE WORLD SAYS Believe in yourself, JESUS SAYS believe in me

THE WORLD SAYS Strive to be number one, JESUS SAYS the last shall be first and the first last

THE WORLD SAYS Winning isn't everything it's the only thing, JESUS SAYS he who finds his life will loose it and he who looses his life for my sake will find it

THE WORLD SAYS Don't get mad, get even, JESUS SAYS Love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you

THE WORLD SAYS Stand up for your rights, JESUS SAYS Lay down your life

THE WORLD TEACHES US Assert ourselves, JESUS TEACHES US TO deny ourselves

ILLUSTRATION: As hurricane Dorian came near our coast I notice a little flock of ducklings in our backyard. They didn't seem too concerned. I figured there were a couple of reason... #1, they haven't been watching the news... #2, they knew that the safest place to be was under the wings of that mother duck and she was always nearby #3, they were designed for the storm. They knew that the storm wouldn't ask anything of them that their creator hadn't provided.

Friend, the same is true of you -

Jesus said in Matthew 11:29 (ESV)

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle (meek) and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

When you are rightly related to the meek and lowly Jesus, you can rest in his providence.

Psalm 91:2-9 (ESV)

² I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. ⁸ You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹ Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge—