



Sermon Text: Matthew 5:5

Sermon Date: May 19, 2019

In the past two messages, we have been studying the Sermon on the Mount, especially Matthew Chapter 5, verses 3 and 4. These are the first two Beatitudes “–blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”, and, “blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” And, one thing I hope that has come through loud and clear to you in these preceding studies is that Christ’s statements are intended to teach us, among other things, that the kind of life he requires actually is impossible for men and women. And it will remain impossible until men and women first come to Jesus, acknowledging that they cannot live it, and asking him to live it in them.

The poor in spirit are blessed, not the proud in spirit! And the comfort Christ promises is for those who first mourn for their sin and the sin of others. At this point, however, Jesus makes his description of the happy life even more difficult, for he goes on to show that the way of blessing is also through “meekness.” He says, “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” According to Jesus, it is the meek – not the arrogant or the proud – or the forward or the aggressive – whom God blesses. Pastor Jeff asked four questions to help us understand Jesus’ concept of “meekness.”

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY THE WORD MEEK?

The Greek word Jesus used for meek basically means mild or soft. The term is sometimes used to describe a soothing medicine or a soft breeze. This word was used to describe the wild horse whose spirit was broken and tamed by its trainer so that it could do useful work. As a human attitude it meant being gentle of spirit, submissive, quiet, tenderhearted.

The character of a truly meek person is gentle, humble, mild-mannered, patient and long-suffering. It is that state in which the gentle, humble believer stubbornly trusts God and surrenders to His authority, even when he or she can’t make any sense out of present circumstances. It is strength under control.

WHAT DOES THIS KIND OF MEEKNESS LOOK LIKE?

Think of it this way: There is wonderful cooperation between a horse and its rider. The horse is 7 or 8 times the weight of its rider, yet submits itself to its master’s control. A horse may move in any direction or any speed at the rider’s slightest command. That is strength under perfect control. And that defines the Christian concept of meekness.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF MEEKNESS?

One day, God will completely reclaim his earthly domain, and those who have become his children through faith in his son Jesus Christ will rule that domain with him. And the only ones who become his children and the subjects of his divine kingdom are those who are meek and gentle and humble, because they understand their unworthiness and sinfulness and cast themselves on the mercy of God.

WHY IS MEEKNESS NECESSARY?

It is required for salvation. Meekness is commanded. We cannot witness effectively without it. Meekness gives glory to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from Sunday?
2. As a Christian, I should/should not strive to be meek in every situation. Comment?
3. What does “meekness” look like for me personally?
4. Is the meekness of Moses, or Paul, or Jesus realistic in the world we live in in 2019?