

Matthew 5:5

The Beginning of True Ambition

There is no one like Jesus. No other life in the history of the earth has or ever will be as significant as the Lord Jesus Christ. We Christians follow him. We follow him because he has come to cut a path in this desolate land to lead us to glory. We have been studying the Beatitudes for a few weeks now and have made it to verse 5 today in Matthew 5.

Remember these are blessed statements of our Lord that show us the description of God's perfect provision. These statements from the mouth of the Lord Jesus strike the earth like a massive asteroid.

Jesus has come to remake the world, to turn brokenness into blessedness. Jesus has come to remake humanity. To turn those of us who were blasphemous lovers of self into the grateful worshippers of God.

We are studying the Sermon on the Mount and the steps that lead up to the top of the mountain are these successive saying of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Each of the Beatitudes are linked together to reveal a complete picture of perfect provision - a picture of blessedness.** Each of them reveal the change that the Lord Jesus has come to make into our world. We have the poor in spirit, the mournful, and today we have the meek. Each of these are called blessed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

READ TEXT

The poor in spirit speaks of our condition - we have nothing to offer God, we are spiritually bankrupt. The mournful speaks to our contrition - we weep over how sinful we are. Today we look at the meek which speaks of our control - meekness comes from a heart that realizes he has nothing to offer God who is mournful over his own sinfulness.

If there was ever a misunderstood term in our day it is meekness. When you think of a meek man do you think of a macho man, a tough guy? Often time people associate meekness with weakness but meekness cannot be weakness. How do we know? Matthew 11:29 - *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.* Who would dare call Jesus a weak man? Read the Bible and see Jesus fasting forty days and nights in the wilderness with wild beasts. Read the Bible and see Jesus taking a whip and running into the Temple overturning tables and chasing out money changers. Read the Bible and see Jesus being flogged by Pilate, beaten by soldiers, having a crowd calling for his blood, and then looking in the eyes of the Roman governor after refusing to answer the questions and being threatened by Pilate saying, "You would have no authority over me unless it had been given to you from above. Read the Bible and see Jesus, who could have called all of heaven down to save himself from dying on the Cross being lead like a lamb to the slaughter, opening not his mouth. No, meekness is not weakness. Meekness is strength with gentleness, strength under control.

Meekness is different than humility. Humility is a feeling that you have about yourself. Meekness is not about how you treat yourself but how you treat others. A meek person has his strength under control. The word meek is a rich word in antiquity. It may have lost its flavor today but it is rich with meaning. The Greeks and some of the old farmers used this word to refer to the process of taking a wild horse and making him into a work horse. If you go and find a wild station and desire to use him for work and he is snorting and bucking you have to meek him - you have to put his strength under control. With horses you do this with bits and brittles. With people you do this by grace and the filling of the Spirit.

A wild horse has to first be broken before it can be used and the same is true for you and me. We are wild at heart, lost in our sins, and so our Lord comes to us wandering in our own lostness and begins to break us. He says, "You are poor in spirit", and so we mourn. Then after he breaks us we are ready to be used by him to fulfill whatever purpose he has for us, in this case it is the inheritance of the whole earth, but we will get there in a minute.

This whole idea of brokenness is not very popular in our climate today. The word says live like you want, do whatever pleases you, be who you are, try everything. You want to call a man a woman then go ahead. A man wants to marry another man, go ahead. All in the name of "equality." But somehow But the Bible says, there is a way that seems right to a man but the end thereof leads to death. (Proverbs 14:12)

Most don't understand the message of Christianity. The Lord breaks us he doesn't cripple us. We are fearful and wonderfully made but we have gotten off track. We don't need to be cripple we need to be broken, we need to have our strengths put under control. Listen to Romans 6:12-13:

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Our so called freedom was no freedom at all, the Bible says that we were slaves to sin. Now that our Lord has come seeking and saving, we now, by grace, get the privilege of living a full life for Jesus! Don't mistake a meek Christian for someone who is weak. A meek Christian is one who is ready to give all their passions to Jesus Christ. Meek Christians are those like John Leonard Dober and David Nitschman who were sitting in a church service one day where they heard about a certain island in the West Indies that had never had any gospel witness. The pastor told of an atheist slave owner on the island who had about 3,000 slaves who would live and die without ever hearing the good news that Jesus has come to save preached to them. So these two men, both in their early twenties made a decision to go to these slaves to share the gospel with them. So they did, they sold themselves into slavery so that they could be among these 3,000. Weakness? Not weakness, meekness.

Today I want to give you 3 truths about the Meek.

1. The Meek Delight in Brokenness

Remember the context of the beatitudes: Condition - poor in spirit; Contrition - mournful; and as a result; control - meek. After God breaks us and we come to the end of ourselves we approach him as we cast ourselves to his disposal. Some never make it to this point. You are so stubborn and hard headed. Imagine your playing golf. It's a par three and this is the hole-in-one challenge hole. If you make a hole-in-one then you win \$1,000,000. Here is the catch. You can either try the shot yourself, or you can let Phil Mickelson take the shot for you. No matter who makes the shot, Phil or you, you get to keep all the money. How many of you would try the shot? How many of you would let the pro golfer take the shot? The shame of it is that some of you, or someone that you know, has been seeing the grace of God in their life, God calling you, God pursuing you, but you, for whatever stupid reason, think that you can do this thing on your own when the God of the universe is watching, waiting, pleading, saying, *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* (Matthew 11:29)

You know why the meek delight in brokenness? Because it is from our brokenness that praise comes. It's through our brokenness that we become effective for God. We meek are those who have come to the end of our rope and we have leapt safely into the everlasting arms of Jesus. We have found the greatest rest by letting go.

2. The Life of the Meek is Trusting in God

The greatest ambition in our lives is trusting in God. Can you think of anything greater? Listen, God's Word couldn't be more clear: Quit resting on yourself and start trusting God. It is revolutionary but so right.

My kids were watching Netflix the other day and stumbled across an old Mickey Mouse cartoon from Disney. Here is this big old giant terrorizing the town and he comes across a hay stack cover with a tarp. What does he do? He rolls a cigarette, reaches through the roof of the house next door, pulls out a wood burning stove and lights that rolled hay and takes a long drag. These days if that cartoon were released it would be rated PG for substance use. Who would have thought that back then that the current climate about smoking would be so different? Smoking is not presented in the light that it once was. Today people are more sensitive to the fact that smoking causes all sorts of troubles. Now for people to get off of nicotine there are all sorts of patches, pills, and programs.

We have trouble trusting in God because every message that we hear says don't trust in God. But if we would just take the first leap and place our faith in God then we would never ever want to pick up not trusting in God again!

Trusting in God will take your whole hearted effort.

Trusting in God is not for the faint of heart. There is a life to be lived and a world to be won for Jesus, we best make every opportunity with every effort to live for Jesus.

Trusting in God has bearing on how you and I view all things. We are trusting in God, not leaning on our own understanding but in all our ways we are acknowledging him as he directs our path. When all the world around us seems to be in despair we are not in despair, we are trusting in God. When people speak evil of us or towards us, we don't revile in return, why? We are trusting in God.

How can we do this? We are the meek, we believe what Jesus says. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

3. The Meek Possess Everything

In this beatitude, Jesus is quoting from Psalm 37. You want to learn what meekness means, read Psalm 37. Psalm 37:11 says, *The meek shall inherit the land*. This reference to the earth is the long term anticipation of the day when the whole earth will be covered with the knowledge of the Lord. When the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of Christ, and we will reign with him for forever and ever.

Listen closely, this is not something that will happen out yonder somewhere. This inheritance of the earth is already happening now and started happening when Jesus came preaching the kingdom of heaven is at hand. We who are the meek, we who have abandoned ourselves totally to God are those who have nothing, yet possess everything (2 Corinthians 6:10). Why because Christ is everything and he has made us his very own.

How about you? Are you meek? Only the meek are the ones that will inherit the earth. That's quite an inheritance isn't it? Imagine what the one who gives us the earth must be like? This is Jesus, we bow to him, we worship him, and we happily and readily give our all to him. Are you one who has given yourself to him? This morning you are invited to come to the end of yourself, to cast all your cares, all your concerns, your total self upon Jesus, to take his yoke upon you and have rest for your souls. Maybe someone today is ready to let go, if so wont you come? Wont you declare all to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give?