

# The Sermon on the Mount

DEVOTIONAL STUDIES FROM THE  
MEN'S MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek,  
For they shall inherit the earth.

David Brooks shared a quote with me about meekness. It was from the ministry of Adrian Rogers (who recently went home to be with the Lord). He said, *If you think it's easy to be meek, try being meek for a week!*

The world thinks in terms of strength and power. Hollywood is a good gauge for this. The hero we love is the guy who tries to remain meek, but eventually gets pushed too far and then exacts revenge against all the bad guys (who always deserve to die brutal, horrible deaths!).

It's interesting to remember a larger context for this beatitude. The Jews were expecting their Messiah to be a strong military leader who would overthrow Rome, probably by force of arms. **Meek** isn't exactly the word that would describe the guy they were looking forward to.

Even in the Church we don't always value meekness. There is always a general feeling that we would be stronger, and better equipped to fight our enemies, if Christians were all united. Unity is great; but the kind of unity that we usually desire is a powerful unity, a political force, the numbers to effect change by fighting hand-to-hand.

God can just as easily use Gideon, and whittle down the numbers, to get the glory!

Each beatitude suggests the next. Being **poor in spirit** is the foundation. We come to God recognizing we are spiritual paupers

and throw ourselves upon His grace. His grace first saves us; then it sustains and supplies us day-by-day.

As believers, we then **mourn** as we see the conflict within between the flesh and its lusts and the spirit and love. Thanks be to God the Holy Spirit is our Comforter and, when we **mourn**, we know His **comfort**. The blessedness of those who mourn is the comfort of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Those were the foundation and the first step up the mount as we desire to be like our Lord. The next step is **meekness**.

So far, the beatitudes have been somewhat introspective. I look within, at myself, and see I am **poor in spirit** and then I **mourn**. But I don't live alone, or in a vacuum. Other people are all around me – both believers and unbelievers. I relate to them as a Christian. And the first characteristic in doing so is meekness.

Maybe it would be good to remember that Moses was called **very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth** (Numbers 12:3). At the time he was so described, his own brother and sister, Aaron and Miriam, were accusing him of being a one-man show. Moses said nothing; God struck Miriam with leprosy for a time, and He spoke from a pillar of cloud about Moses' faithfulness.

- being changed to bring change -

Right away, with Moses as our Old Testament example, we see that meekness is *not* weakness.

1. Moses defied Pharaoh – the most powerful man on the earth at that time.
2. He rebuked his own people when they were partying around the Golden Calf, then threw down the tablets upon which the Ten Commandments were written.
3. He led millions of people into and through the wilderness those 40-years. He was not weak!

So how would we define meekness? It seems to be having an accurate view of myself, and expressing it in my attitude and conduct toward others.

The apostle Paul was talking about meekness when he said,

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

I will be **meek** if I remember I am **poor in spirit**; and then **mourn** for my struggle against sin. I don't ever think more highly of myself; I don't think I am somehow better than you.

Not only that, but I am concerned about Jesus getting credit and glory – **not me!**

Which is why those who are meek can sometimes seem very strong. If someone is attacking the glory of God; or someone is taking credit for God; I am incensed and do something about it.

1. David was meek when he was incensed by Goliath's slander against God.
2. Nehemiah was meek when he threw Tobiah's furniture out of the Temple; and when he threatened the Gentile merchants trying to sell on the Sabbath; and when he struck and plucked the Jewish men who had married Gentile women.

Always the Lord, Jesus Christ, is our ultimate example. He was meek in eternity past, when He determined He would become a man. He would not assert His rights, as God, but would live and act entirely as a man.

When the glory of God was on the line, Jesus could be fierce!

1. He often said strong things about and against the Scribes and Pharisees. My favorite is when He compared them to whitewashed tombs – dead within, looking good only on the outside, and drawing attention to themselves.
2. Jesus was meek when He overturned the tables of the moneychangers – twice – and drove them out of His Father's house.

The blessedness of being **meek** is that you **inherit the earth**. You don't conquer it, by force of any kind; it is given to you as a gift.

What is an inheritance? Usually it is something left to you by your parents. In our case, we have God as our Father. We were born-again into His forever family; and we have been formally adopted by God in the sense that we are His legal heirs.

God will never die! He therefore starts sharing our inheritance with us the moment we are saved. Everyday He supplies and sustains us from our inheritance of spiritual blessings. Thus, wherever we find ourselves, we can claim that place as an inheritance given to us by God, and we can trust that His grace will be supplied to sustain us.

When we die or get Raptured, our inheritance continues on into eternity.

1. The Lord will reward us at His *bema* – at the reward seat.
2. We know that we will have authority on the earth during the 1000-year kingdom of God on earth.
3. There are passages that indicate we will judge the angels (First Corinthians 6:3).
4. The last two chapters of the Revelation reveal precious treasures and joys that will be ours to inherit throughout eternity, once we are free from our bodies of sin and death.

It is tougher than you think to have an accurate view of yourself. We are not good at self-evaluation. We do tend to think more highly of ourselves than we ought! It doesn't help that our culture promotes self-esteem as one of the most important virtues of life – blaming all sorts of evil on low self-esteem.

We are to have Christ-esteem:

1. First, we see Jesus, sitting on the mount, delivering these words, but also embodying them. He is the example; He is what a man can be.
2. Then we will see ourselves, falling short but being enabled to ascend to the Lord by His indwelling Spirit.

I'd like to leave us with a series of encouragements from the Scripture about meekness:

Psalms 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

Psalms 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Psalms 25:12 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Psalms 25:13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psalms 37:8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Psalms 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

Psalms 37:11 But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalms 37:18 The LORD knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever.

Psalms 37:22 For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.

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