

Meekness by the Mile!

The Beatitudes – Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.



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I. Introduction

Welcome back to the BLESSED SAYINGS of Jesus, better known as THE BEATITUDES

Within these words ‘blessed are the meek’ appears in the Sermon on the Mount, And truly perhaps is not a sermon but a group of sermons.

Previously Mathew recorded that Jesus had been baptized by John the Baptist.

The Sermon on the Mount occupies three chapters shortly after this: chapters 5, 6, and 7 of Matthew’s gospel.

When I hear that word beatitudes

- I hear a hidden word and it is almost like **Jesus is saying “Be an attitude!”**

Not sure if you need an attitude adjustment this morning or not...

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I know I do! Like a quick tweak to a specific kind of attitude

- in order for us to do better at life!
- and to gain something from our actions we are not getting today!

And yet **some believe that BLESSED ARE implies a present state of happiness?**

I am not sure of that the tone of what Jesus was demanding within the landmark group of messages as recorded by both Matthew and Luke!

To prop up Matthew a bit – he was there

And well Luke was more like in private investigator mode.

I bring this up as we are more like Luke and not Matthew and as we were not there either!

I have always love Luke... and listen to his introduction to his Gospel here!

Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. 2 They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples.[a] 3 Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, 4 so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught. Luke 1:1-4

So this morning I want to attempt like Luke to provide an accurate account...

as you too... are most honorable

and like me we truly need to **BE CERTAIN OF THE TRUTH YOU WERE TAUGHT!**

To be a seeker of the truth!

And in the midst of this challenge to be ***MEEK*** while doing it!

Hard for me by the way and as you know much of the words we bang together this morning will have double the conviction on me to be sure!!!

45ish years as in both the Navy and as a defense contractor who uses his “so called skills”

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And one who matches the trade with the intensity and passion that is often anything like Meek.

- Seven years ago, this Lt Col was considering assigning me a CALL SIGN – the USAF hands them out like popcorn by the way.
- *It was BULL. For Bull in a China Shop.*

And oddly that matches a disciple who struggled with being MEEK....

You know the bull in the china shop disciple...

You know who I mean...

At the Tate Modern here this painting hangs, by British Painter Ford Maddox Brown....



I rejected using this painting for this part at first because Jesus was fully clothed.

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Ironically I learned society made Mr. Brown to cloth Jesus in his Painting!

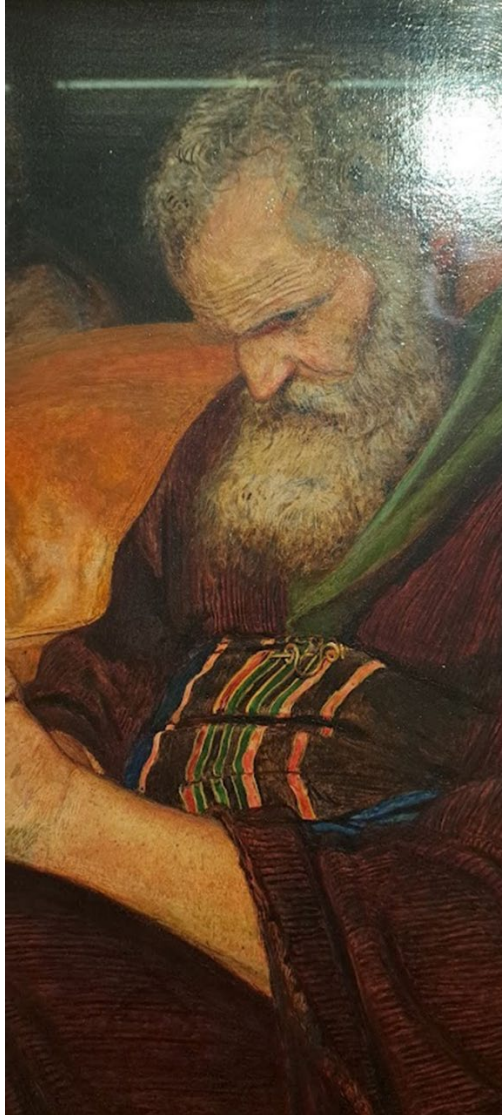
Anyway back to Peter.... Look at his face here. Is that a meek man? Blessed are the meek... for they shall inherit the earth!

Feel Ford Maddox Brown really got it right, don't you?

- Peter who rushes ahead and blunders at times.
- Peter who walked on water
- Peter who's mouth both recognized Jesus as who he really was and then gets him in trouble
- Peter who denied Jesus
- Peter was obedient to speak at the day of Pentecost;
- Peter performed Miracles
- Peter was arrested and set free by angels
- Peter was and kind of the leader of the church after Jesus ascended
- Peter who 'it is said' was crucified stretching his arms, and never again again DENYING HIM in the process!

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In all of that do we see Peter as MEEK? The Blue Collar pastor? Like me the blue collar pastor of CIC...

And yet like Peter God has my back and as we look at blessed are the Meek...

I want to encourage you that if you are simply that – you will inherit the earth!

II. MEEKNESS BY THE MILE!

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

As already offered we are on the third of the beatitudes this morning

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

Though most people know that Jesus says ‘Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth’ (Matthew 5:5), not as many people know that, in saying this, Jesus was echoing something from the Psalms

But the meek shall inherit the earth’ Psalm 37:11

Jesus is showing that he is fulfilling or better, perfecting this ancient Jewish thought, rather than replacing it with a new one.

So what is being meek?

A. WHAT IS BEING MEEK?



My second Pastor Ted Brassard out of Niantic Ct. was a master bible teacher and great teaching pastor kind of like Pastor Ackland.

He even taught at a variety of universities in the south.

Yet he in the 80s he felt he was unworthy to teach or preach the Sermon on the Mount.

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That is very meek to feel as experienced as a pastor you might be –

- not be ready to share on the Jesus Sermon on the Mount!

I hope he did teach an entire study as it would have been awesome and here I am a product of his discipleship, and now

- being a platform to share on this Beatitude.
- To be meek in the sharking...

Jesus offers that we are to be meek. And by doing to get a reward for just being meek!

In the Bible, meekness is often associated with humility, gentleness, and a willingness to submit to God's will.

With that in mind, are "the meek" to be inactive or stand passive?

To better answer that – let's look at some samples of being meek

B. EXAMPLES OF BEING MEEK

Say – Moses!

Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth Numbers 12:3

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We know that lacked confidence to the mission the Lord was asking of him.

And he was raised in Pharaoh's household so how can he be described as the humblest man on earth?

How about Jesus Himself could we consider him meek?



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Jesus He truly embodies meekness!

29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
Matthew 11:29

Jesus' approach so wonderful and gentle here isn't it?

- Let me teach you... as I am humble and gentle.

The Greek term for meekness, "praeis," refers to mildness and humility!

Do not be confused that this meekness is not weakness!

It is more accurate one who

- has strength and is under control.

10 Now I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ—though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. 2 Well, I am begging you now so that when I come, I won't have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives. 2 COR 10:1-2

Paul is contrasting to the church at Corinth here from a place of meekness

And yet desire for the Corinthians to understand that there remains a boldness as well

Jesus often wore meekness on His sleeve during His earthly ministry!

Specifically in his endurance of His suffering,

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opens not his mouth. Isaiah 53:7

But make no mistake about it in meekness even, He displayed the power of God in every action.

The incarnation of Christ is the ultimate demonstration of meekness.

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Though he was God,[a]
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.
7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges[b];
he took the humble position of a slave[c]
and was born as a human being.
When he appeared in human form,[d]
8 he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross. Phil 2:6-8

Here, Christ's willingness to relinquish His divine privileges and take on human form is a profound act of

- humility and submission to the Father's will.
- throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus consistently displayed meekness.

Jesus had a great many attributes of kindness and gentleness with this friends and others.

He demonstrated a servant's heart, going back to my introduction Jesus washing his close friends feet

3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. 4 So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, 5 and poured

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The Beatitudes – Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him. John 13:3-5

This is a wonderful act of servitude and humility isn't it?



Love that Peter truly grasped what being meek was and that was captures why he address his Lord and Master in 1 Peter chapter 2!

He did not retaliate when he was insulted,
nor threaten revenge when he suffered.
He left his case in the hands of God,
who always judges fairly. 1 Peter 2:23

Look at this response to His enemies and His suffering which revealed His meekness.

Jesus' restraint and trust in God's justice, even in the face of unjust treatment, exemplify the strength of meekness.

Meekness can be found in Jesus Teachings

Today if you are facing injustice. If you are seeing that this broken world is not being fair.

- Do we threaten revenge!
- Do we light cars on fire and loot?
- Do we disrupt our neighbors' lives and commit terrible acts of violence?

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No ...we trust in God and know He always is fair with us!

Many parables often emphasize the importance of humility and meekness and in review of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector - - you know the challenges we all have



One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people

¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed.

¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Luke 18

This parable contrasts the pride of the Pharisee

with the humility of the tax collector, concluding with the principle of God doing the exalting or humbling!

Are you puffing up your pious self...by comparing yourself to your brother. By showing God how much better you are to your sister!

That is a trap my friends. Trust me you do not want to go this route!

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Jesus states that God will exalt those who are humble and humble those who are attempting to exalt themselves!

Anyone interested in being made to be meek by the very hand of God?

God blesses those who are humble,
for they will inherit the whole earth. Matthew 5:5

And in your majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and
righteousness; and your right hand shall teach you terrible things. Psalm 45:4

C. REWARD OF THE MEEK

This beatitude highlights the spiritual reward and divine favor bestowed upon those who embody meekness.

Today we are called to be meek!

To adopt a spirit of humility and gentleness,

To trust in God's ultimate justice and provision.

If you can grasp this, meekness can lead each of us to a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God

And with one another!

It is a trait that helps believers navigate conflict, embrace humility, and exemplify the heart of Christ in a broken world.

Where one has this character trait that reflects reliance on God and a peaceful spirit.

I for one need a peaceful spirit. This world is truly challenging me. I am not sure how to respond, react or to speak in light of current world affairs.

this morning Can we embrace that is far better to realize deep without ourselves that there is nothing as effective as one who submits to God's authority and make him Lord!

Revelation 21:7 says God's children will "inherit all things."

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The meek are also imitators of Jesus Christ,
One who demonstrates gentleness and self-control.

Here is a great paraphrase of our text:

"Blessed are those who submit to God as Lord, for they will inherit everything He possesses."

Embracing spiritual boldness and meekness can deeply enrich your life.

These are virtues that can help build a strong moral character.

They guide you towards integrity and authenticity.

Spiritual boldness helps you stand firm in your beliefs while being open to the benefits of meekness.

Right away today, our meekness can bring deep rewards,

- create a space of trust in God and His provision therefore finding peace
- helping you build stronger relationships
- More meaningful connections with friends, family, and community.

And as our text says –

Learning about spiritual meekness shows us how to gain eternal rewards.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

This shows how important it is to have a gentle spirit. It connects us to our spiritual roots.

Living humbly leads to eternal blessings.

This way of thinking makes us see that earthly gains are less important than the rewards that last forever.

Instead of chasing after fleeting praise which the flesh craves!

- think about how being meek affects your spiritual path
- With every act of kindness and understanding there is an return in Heaven

These actions help you connect with heavenly rewards.

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This connection improves your life now and strengthens your faith for all your tomorrows.

And maybe that is what inheriting the earth really might mean!

See your spiritual heritage as a treasure that gives you eternal benefits.

I was hard on Peter at the beginning wasn't I...

Peter was a meek and so very humble and here is how I know:

“6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. 1 Pet. 5:6-7) NKJV

Peter a man who had been known for his blustering, bull-doing, boastful self-confidence, became the wonderful pastoral encourager of the afflicted!

Back to our reward...

As Jesus says that the meek inherit the earth He is affirming our salvation!.

More accurately that we are saved in this life for our eternal destination

To inherit the earth for me right now means to be given strength to face down this lost and broken world with reckless abandon.

No matter what the affliction is to come!

To inherit the earth is to know the fullness of love and companionship our spouse.. our children... our family... our neighbors and co workers and with one another!

place your full trust and expectation of provision in Father God

- to take care of you and therefore we inherit the earth

Even now I believe you will see that through the Lens of the Holy Spirit!

Not for what it does for me or is done by me, but what how does God see this world!

There is something hidden there in the simply phrase of your reward of being meek!

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To inherit the earth is to be at peace with God.

And who does not need that?

Can you come to the keyboard please....

What does it mean to come to God in meekness? What does it mean to gain this reward

It is simply this: "Just as I am, without one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me, And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come!" (A. J. Gordon and Arthur T. Pierson, "Just As I Am," Charlotte Elliott, 1836)

Are you in need of peace this morning? Should we win by force to gain peace --- to approach others not with a bombastic and severe religious approach! To wrestle our needs back to ourselves to gain peace in the circumstance?

Rather Jesus is saying here to be blessed you have to be Meek! To be gentle of Spirit.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Gal 5:22-23

To pour the fruit of the Spirit of forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control, from very pore of your body.

I promise...

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No the Jesus promises you that you will blessed

- if you do
- and more so see change on this earth in being meek!

This morning can you bow your head where you are...

and if there is a circumstance in your life where you need to change

from being a menace to being meek,

then this was the message for you!

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And we sure do need to demonstrate the Be-an-attitude of meekness to be more effective and to be blessed!

Only you can answer this...

do I need to take some time at this altar.

To lay some things down that are NOT of you. To dare not lift your eyes towards heaven even!?

- To get an attitude adjustment so that I can find a center of meekness
- Meekness in my approach to God Himself?

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- Meekness in my relationships with those whom God has brought into my life

If that is you please step out now

God desires to exalt you this morning and to give you the earth!