

# **“Blessed Are the Meek”**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## Introduction:

- A. Matt. 5:5 - “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”
  - 1. The Beatitudes are about faith
    - a. How faith begins (vs. 3-5)
    - b. How faith develops (v. 6)
    - c. How faith matures (vs. 7-9)
    - d. How faith is tested (vs. 10-12)
  - 2. The “poor in spirit” are those who see that God is and view themselves in perspective: that they are nothing before God
  - 3. Those who “mourn” realize their true condition, that sin ruined him; he mourns for himself and for the fallen world
  - 4. The “meek” act upon what they know about their condition and need for God’s blessing and forgiveness
- B. How does faith begin?
  - 1. Hab. 2:4 - Meekness is crucial to life here and eternal life there

## **I. UNDERSTANDING MEEKNESS**

A. “Meekness is an attitude of humility toward God and gentleness toward men, springing from recognition that God is in control. Although weakness and meekness may look similar, they are not the same. Weakness is due to negative circumstances, such as lack of strength or lack of courage. But meekness is due to a person’s conscious choice. It is strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness.”

(Nelson’s Bible Dictionary)

- 1. “Strength and courage under control, coupled with kindness”
  - 2. It is not weakness, fearfulness, timidity, and helplessness
  - 3. Greek word “praus” comes from a word used by physicians to describe a soothing medicine, by sailors to describe a gentle breeze, and by farmers to describe a colt broken for riding
  - 4. All three are examples of power under control
  - 5. Prov. 16:32; Psalm 37:1-11
- B. The scriptures praise and encourage the quality of meekness
- 1. Matt. 11:29; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:1-2; Col. 3:12
  - 2. 1Tim. 6:11; 2Tim. 2:24-25; Titus 3:1-2

## **II. MEEKNESS AND FAITH**

- A. The meek realizes that he has nothing with which to overcome his sins, nothing with which to cleanse himself of them
  - 1. The meek still has power, but he uses it only under the direction of God, Who he acknowledges to be in control
  - 2. Meekness is the quality that finally moves a person to believe, trust, depend on, and to obey God
- B. Meekness is not powerlessness; one does not give up power to be meek

1. Does the medicine give up power to cure the sick, or does it use power under control by the doctor?
2. Does the wind give up power to push the ship across the sea, or does it use its power in way controlled by the captain and helmsman?
3. Does the horse give up power when broken, or is its power used in a way controlled by the rider and bridle?
4. Neither does a believer give up his faith and power when he meekly submits to God; he gives over his power into God's control.
  - a. He uses his power under God's control
  - b. He accomplishes good instead of causing harm
  - c. He knows he is not the answer; God is, and he is willing to be used by God
  - d. He does not need to overcome or overwhelm; he knows that God will do that through him

### III. THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

#### A. "Inherit the earth"

1. Is it the world in which we live? The poor are often untimely buried in it, but that is not what Jesus meant
2. Is it a re-created heaven and earth? Often based on a misunderstanding or misapplication of 2Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1?
3. It is one of the three promises given to Abraham; in Christ; these promises are made spiritual and eternal
  - a. The great nation - the family of God
  - b. The great land - our eternal home in heaven
  - c. The great blessings - in Christ

#### Conclusion:

A. "Men sometimes speak as if humility and meekness would rob us of what is noble and bold and manlike. O that all would believe that this is the nobility of the kingdom of heaven, that this is the royal spirit that the King of heaven displayed, that this is Godlike, to humble oneself, to become the servant of all!" (Andrew Murray)

B. "Sir Thomas More was a victim of injustice and irony. Generously and meekly, just as he was about to be martyred, he said: Paul ... was present, and consented to the death of St. Stephen, and kept their clothes that stoned him to death, and yet be they [Stephen and Paul] now both twain Holy Saints in heaven, and shall continue there friends forever, so I verily trust and ... pray, that though your lordships have now here in earth been judges to my condemnation, we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together, to our everlasting salvation."