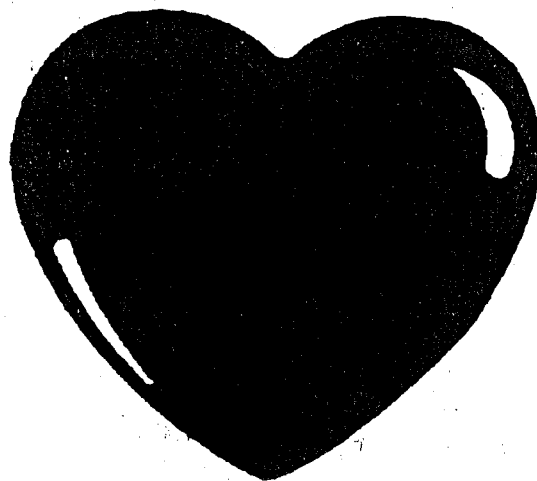


THE MEEK

(How It Is Possible To Inherit (Enjoy) Your Journey)
Matthew 5:5



ONLY THE MEEK CAN...

- ◆ Bear Injury
- ◆ Forgive Injury
- ◆ Overcome Injury

**“Blessed Are The Meek, For They Shall Inherit The Earth”
(Matthew 5:5)**

Bill Kirk

“MATTERS OF THE HEART”

(Message #3)

Text: Matthew 5:5

Subject: “Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth”

Introduction

1. The Sermon on the Mount is a revelation from Jesus.
2. It is a revelation of how to enjoy your life.
3. It is a message of governing principles for the heart.
4. It contains 8 Beatitudes that deliver us from self-preoccupation (and produce spiritual health in every life!)

Question: What are the 8 (cause and effect) choices we can make?

- #1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit”
- #2. “Blessed are they that mourn”
- #3. “Blessed are the meek”
- #4. “Blessed are those hungry and thirsty”
- #5. “Blessed are the merciful”
- #6. “Blessed are the pure in heart”
- #7. “Blessed are the peacemakers”
- #8. “Blessed are the persecuted”

Question: How many of you wanted to be “Blessed” according to God’s intention?

Question: What does it mean to be blessed?

Answer: The Greek word for “Blessed” is (MAKARIOS) which means:

- ◆ A spiritual joy that exists inside regardless of conditions outside.
- ◆ A substance of God’s spirit that is inward and abiding.
- ◆ A satisfaction that carries someone through pain, sorrow or grief.

(In Message #1)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (which means:)

1. To be consciously aware of my spiritual poverty.
2. To possess an awareness of my nothingness apart from God.
3. To see how much I need the grace of God.

Question: Why is being “Poor in spirit” so important?

Answer: Because, to the degree that my heart is emptied of myself (poor in spirit) to that same degree my heart will be filled with Jesus (and only to that degree will be my happiness). (repeat)

(In Message #2)

“Blessed are they that mourn (why?) for they shall be comforted” (which means:)

1. To be broken hearted over personal sin.
2. To grieve in response to seeing my poverty of spirit.
3. To sorrow within because I understand that my sin nailed Jesus to the cross.

Question: Why are you “Blessed” when you mourn with “Godly sorrow” that leads to repentance?

Answer: Because to the degree you mourn, to that same degree you will find grace and be comforted.

- ◆ Mourning leads us to confession (and)
- ◆ Confession is the bridge to forgiveness (and)
- ◆ The degree of my mourning will be the degree of my deliverance from sin I confess and turn from.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Until I realize the pain my sin causes God, myself and others, I am destined to repeat it.
- ◆ But when I do experience godly sorrow (spiritual mourning) to that same degree will be my joyful heart because of God’s grace that comforts me.

“Strike It Deep Lord:”

- #1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for when I see my need something good is soon to follow.
- #2. Blessed are they that mourn, and cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, which God is longing to give to anyone.
- #3. Today – “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth”
 - ◆ What does it mean to be meek?
 - ◆ How is it possible to walk in meekness?
 - ◆ What does it mean to inherit the earth?

I. What Does It Mean To Be Meek?

“Blessed are the meek” (Matthew 5:5)

- ◆ The Greek work for “**Meek**” is (PRAEIS) (which means:)

- #1. To be humble,
- #2. To be strong, but tender,
- #3. To be controlled and teachable,
- #4. To be gentle and not easily provoked.

Meekness Is:

- #1. A proper view of one’s self before God.
- #2. An inward condition of the heart.
- #3. Power and strength under the control of the Holy Spirit.
- #4. The surrendering of my rights to God.
- #5. That fruit allowing me to endure injury without resentment.
- #6. A heart void of all arrogance, conceit, and self-preoccupation.
- #7. Never wanting pity, attention or others to feel sorry for me.
- #8. A willingness to take the lowest seat at the banquet hall.
- #9. Void of all jealousy over the success of others.
- #10. That fruit that leaves me totally content when others are applauded and I am not.

Question: Is the subject of Matthew 5:5 that important?

Answer: Listen to the words of A. W. Tozer 50 years ago in his classic book “Man: The Dwelling Place Of God” (Page 96)

“Christians have fallen into the habit of accepting the noisiest and most notorious among them as the best and the greatest. They too have learned to equate popularity with excellence, and in open defiance of the Sermon on the Mount they have given their approval not to the meek but to the self-assertive; not to the mourner but to the self-assured; not to the pure in heart who see God but to the publicity hunter who seeks headlines.

Were the church a pure and Spirit-filled body, wholly led and directed by spiritual considerations, certainly the purest and the saintliest men and women would be the ones most appreciated and most honored; but the opposite is true. Godliness is no longer valued, except for the very old or the very dead. The saintly souls are forgotten in the whirl of religious activity. The noisy, the self-assertive, the entertaining are sought after and rewarded in every way, with gifts, crowds, offerings, and publicity. The Christlike, the self-forgetting, the other-worldly are jostled aside to make room for the latest converted playboy who is usually not too well converted and still very much of a playboy. The wise Christian will be content, he will serve his generation in the will of God. If he would be overlooked in the religious popularity contests he will give it but small attention. He knows whom he is trying to please and he is willing to let the world think what it will of him. He will not be around much longer anyway, and where he is going men will be known not by their Hooper rating but by the holiness of their character”.

Question: Is Matthew 5:5 that important?

Answer: Listen to William Law who wrote these words in his classic book, “You Shall Receive Power” (250 years ago)

“Self is the root, the tree, and the branches of all the evil of our fallen state. We are without God because we are in the life of self. Self-love, self-glorying, and self-seeking are the very essence and life of pride; and the devil, the first father of pride, is never absent from them or without power in them. To die to these things of the self is to make the devil depart from us. But, as soon as we allow our own abilities to have a share in our good works, the satanic spirit of pride unites with us, and we begin again to maintain self-love, self-glorying, and self-seeking in our hearts.

All vices of fallen angels and men originate with pride of self. In other words, all our vices get their power from the atheism and idolatry of self, for self is indeed both an atheist and an idolater. It is an atheist because it has rejected God, and it is an idolater because it is its own idol. On the other hand, all the virtues of the heavenly life are the virtues of humility. There is not a joy or glory or praise in heaven that does not come out of humility. It is humility alone that can traverse the otherwise un-passable gulf between heaven and hell. Humility is the one thing that has led every angel to heaven, while pride is the fire that has led all the devils to hell.

So then, what is the great struggle for eternal life, or in what does it lie? It all lies in the strife between pride and humility. Pride and humility are the two master powers, the two kingdoms that strive for the eternal possession of man. All other things, no matter what they may be, are like slaves under them”.

II. What Does It Mean To Inherit The Earth?

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

To “Inherit The Earth” (Means:)

- #1. The meek man or woman has the capacity to enjoy life’s blessings on earth.
- #2. The meek man or woman has the inward ability to be patient under affliction.
- #3. The meek man or woman has the strength of character to give thanks even under reverses that come against them.
- #4. The meek man or woman truly inherits the earth because they can forgive and live offence free and be spared the disease of “Over-sensitivitis”.
- #5. The meek inherit the earth (and are spiritually healthy) while the proud are angry, impatient, bitter, feel cheated, you owe me, never enough, serve me, it’s my way or the highway!

(They Have To Assert And Demand And Intimidate To Get Their Way)

- #6. The meek inherit (or enjoy life on earth) because they are not self- preoccupied, self- assertive, self- conceited, self- protected, self- promoters, self -defenders, etc.
- #7. The meek are healthy before God, and therefore doesn't pity themselves, doesn't feel sorry for themselves, doesn't want attention and doesn't have to worry about rejection.
- #8. The meek believer (inherits the earth) because they live in a state of contentment regardless of being lifted up or being put down.
- #9. The meek Christian is spiritually healthy because – if you're promoted "God has my life", and if you're demoted "God has my life".
- #10. Meekness of spirit will keep you stable, joyful and grateful because you've surrendered all of your expectations over to God.

To "Inherit The Earth (Means:)

- ◆ To possess a spiritual inheritance while you live on earth.
- ◆ It means, you can enjoy your spiritual walk with God because you are spiritually healthy.
- ◆ It means that meekness gives you value and significance having nothing to prove.
- ◆ It lifts you above the world, because, like Jesus, when He was crucified, He had power to call 72, 000 angels to His rescue – but didn't.

To "Inherit The Earth (Means:)

- ◆ There are rewards for you on earth as you walk in meekness of spirit.
1. You will experience the **peace** of God in a greater dimension.
"The **meek** shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace".
(Psalm 37:11)
 2. You will be used of God to **restore** (but **judge**) those who **fall into sin**.
"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of **meekness**: considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted". (Galatians 6:1)
 3. You will experience the **joy** of the Lord in a greater way.
"The **meek** also shall increase their joy in the Lord" (Isaiah 29:19)
 4. You will receive manifold **blessings** from God.
"By **humility** and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honor and life". (Proverbs 22:4)
 5. You will enable God's **Word** to work in you and produce good fruit.
"Receive with **meekness** the engrafted word which is able to save your souls". (James 1:21)
 6. You will see God use you in a **greater** way.
"**Humble** yourselves in the sight of the Lord and He shall lift you up" (James 4:10)
 7. You will have **answers** for those who question you about your faith.
"Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with **meekness** and fear". (I Peter 3:15)
 8. You will experience God's **presence** in a greater dimension.
"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of **humble** heart". (Psalm 34:18)
 9. You will experience God's specific **leading** in your life.
"The **meek** will He guide in judgment, and the **meek** will He teach His way". (Psalm 25:9)
 10. You will be spared from great **destruction**.
"Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is **humility**" (Pr. 18:12)

III. How Is It Possible To Walk In Meekness?

(Only one way) and that is: ♦ To see the cross of Jesus.

(Read I Peter 2:19-25)

Question: What are the key words?

Answer: (V. 21) "For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps".

Question: How can you suffer for doing what is right and take it patiently?

Answer: Meekness.

Question: What produces a spirit of meekness in us?

Answer: Seeing Jesus at Calvary.

Verse 22 – He didn't deserve what He received.

Verse 23 – He refused to retaliate in revenge.

Verse 24 – He died to break sin's power in us.

Verse 25 – He lives to empower us to do His will.

Conclusion

- ♦ The cross reveals that there is power to:
 - #1. Bear up under injury.
 - #2. Forgive painful injury.
 - #3. Overcome every injury.
- ♦ The cross enables meekness to produce...
 - #1...total submission towards God.
 - #2...courtesy towards people.
 - #3...forbearance towards injustices.

How Is It all Possible?

- ♦ See Jesus making Himself of no reputation at Calvary!
- ♦ See Jesus opening not His mouth before His accusers!
- ♦ See Jesus giving up His rights so that others might live!
- ♦ See Jesus calling us to follow His foot-steps!

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor