

## BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

Text: Matthew 5:5

INTRO: Jesus' statement is arresting & alarming. Few in our society would consider meekness to be an asset. To most, it would be a definite liability. And to state that the meek will inherit the earth is to state that which almost seems impossible to the modern mind. According to the thinking of most folk, no group is less likely to inherit the earth than the meek. But Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

We can understand Jesus' teaching when we learn 2 things: (1) The real meaning of meekness, & (2) What it means to inherit the earth.

### I. THE REAL MEANING OF MEEKNESS.

#### A. The word defined.

1. The Eng. Word conjures up ideas of timidity & weakness. No such idea exists in the Gr. Word Jesus used.
2. Vine: It is an inwrought grace of the soul... That temper of spirit in which we accept [God's] dealing with us as good & therefore without disputing or resisting... Closely associated with self control. Not readily expressed in Eng. for the terms meekness, mildness, commonly used suggest weakness... whereas PRAUTES does nothing of the kind... Described negatively, [it] is the opposite to

self assertiveness & self interest;  
it equanimity of spirit that is nei-  
ther elated nor cast down, simply  
because it is not occupied with  
self at all.

B. Moses is the prime example of  
meekness in the O.T.

Num 12:3, Now the man Moses was very  
humble [meek, KJV], more than all men  
who were on the face of the earth.

NOTE: If we know anything about Moses  
we know he was not weak & spineless  
& fearful, thus meekness is not spine-  
lessness.

C. In the N.T. Jesus is the prime example.  
1. He manifested it in His gentle  
deal-ings with those who were  
willing to come to Him for help.

Matt. 11:28-30 gentle, meek

2. He manifested it in connection  
with His kingdom.

Matt 21:1-5, Now when they drew  
near Jerusalem, and came to  
Bethphage, at the Mount of Oli-  
ves, then Jesus sent 2 disciples,  
saying to them, "Go into the vil-  
lage opposite you, & immediately  
you will find a donkey tied, and a

colt with her. Loose them & bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "

3. In our text, Matt 5:5, He includes it as a characteristic the citizens in His kingdom must possess.
4. Simon Peter lists it as an adornment of godly women.

1 Peter 3:4, Let [your adornment] be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle & quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

D. In modern society, a true scientist is also an example of meekness, properly understood. He recognizes that the universe is lawful. He soon discovers that to learn from nature, he must humble himself before the laws which govern the universe.

II. THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.

A. "This is Our Father's World." There is a very real sines in which those who learn to be kind, loving & gentle in their dealings with both friends & enemies, come to know the best & most meaningful lives on the earth. The earth is theirs in the sense that they, most of all, have learned how to use its blessings to the full benefit.

1 Cor 3:18-23, Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; & again, "The LORD knows the thots of the wise, that they are futile." Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

B. But since Jesus' kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, when the heavens & earth that now exist are destroyed with fervent heat, & the Lord establishes a new heavens & a new earth, those who have faithfully served

in this realm below will also inherit that new home in the land eternal.

Mark 10:29-30, So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time--houses and brothers & sisters & mothers & children & lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.

CONCLUSION: READ PSALM 37:1-11.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 2, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 16, 2005

6<sup>th</sup> St., Stillwater, OK, September 25, 2005