

## **PP The King and His Kingdom**

### **Part 5-Matthew 5:5 *The Meek will have it all***

**2/25-26/2017**

Illus Chuck Norris publicly claims to be a Christian and several years ago, the actor and martial arts expert had finished a long day of acting in a Texas town, and gone out to get dinner. While he was sitting in the restaurant, a man came up to him and said, "You are sitting in my booth." Norris didn't like the man's tone, but he just got up quietly and moved to another booth. A few minutes later, the man came back to him and said, "You're Chuck Norris, aren't you?" He said he was. The man said, "You could have kicked me around just then, but you didn't!" And Norris proceeded to talk to the man, and made a friend of him.

If you are just joining us in this sermon series, we are looking 8 beatitudes, which are 8 virtues that Jesus possesses perfectly, and is transforming His disciples to possess. None of them are naturally possessed by anyone, all of them strikingly against common virtues. Christ's disciples must possess all of them, and all of them increase in us as we learn from Jesus. Christians, the Beatitudes is what our hearts are increasingly looking like. The first is that we would be poor in spirit, realizing that there is nothing naturally in us that would move God to save us, that His salvation is completely a gracious, unearned gift. The second is that we would mourn, grieving as He shows us our sin appealing to His mercies. The third is that we would be meek.

### **PP 1-The Meaning of 'meek'?**

***"Blessed are the meek..."* Matthew 5:5**

**'Meek'** smacks of a negative characteristic in our culture.

This last week, learning I was preaching on this, said, *Isn't meekness kind of a negative thing?*

It will almost never go onto the resume of a CEO, nor the grave stones of the rich and famous.

It's a word rarely found in modern music, exception being the death metal group Cannibal

Corpse and their song, A Skeletal Domain...lovely band from Buffalo, NY: *'Survivors of this morbid fate, The reborn meek not live not dead'*

Anyways, I trust you will agree with me that the word has fallen out of popular use.

**'Meek'** cannot really be defined in a single word, so let's see what it looks demonstrated.

### **PP a) **'Meek'** demonstrated**

The servants of **Abraham** and those of his nephew Lot were quarreling over grazing land.

Though the land had been promised to Abraham by the Lord, and though he was the older of the

two and in the position of authority, for the sake of harmony with his nephew and their

testimony to unbelievers around them, he gave Lot the pick of what land he wanted.

He had the right to take the land he desired, but he yielded that right, trusting God...meekness.

**Joseph** was horribly treated and sold into slavery with his brothers, but God graciously rescued and put him in a position of blessing, 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in all of Egypt.

Years later, these same brothers came to Egypt to buy grain, a famine being in their land.

Joseph had the authority to put his brothers into slavery, or worse, but instead, forgave them and showered blessings on him...this is what it means to be *'meek'*

**PP** Moses, we are told, *“was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.”* Numbers 12:3

He demonstrated meekness repeatedly, one time toward his brother Aaron and sister Miriam, who became jealous of his leadership, of his unique relationship with God, and they slandered his marriage and right to rule

Moses did not defend himself, rather he trusted God to defend him and God did, judging Miriam with leprosy, but Moses prayed to God on her behalf that she would be restored to health

David, who twice spared King Saul who had been aggressively trying to kill him

Jeremiah, who faithfully proclaimed the Word of God, an exceedingly unpopular message at the time, virtually standing alone in the midst of popular false prophets

For 40 years he was mistreated and endured horrible suffering, yet he remained faithful the whole time, yielding his life to God

Stephen was stoned which in customary fashioned meant he was thrown over a small cliff by a mob, and as he stood up dazed, they began dropping rocks on until he died

**PP** Yet his dying words were, *“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”*

Think of Jesus Who demonstrated what it means to be *'meek'* more than anyone

**PP** Of whom Isaiah prophesied, *“He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.”* Isaiah 42:3

I've read that there was only one time in the Gospels that Jesus described Himself:

**PP** *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle [meek] and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* Matthew 11:29

When confronted by the Pharisees and Scribes, He responded strength to strength

But with the lowly and those broken by sin, He ministered with beautiful gentleness

When mocked by King Herod, He showed restraint and did not speak

When judged before Pilate, Jesus, omnipotent Ruler and the sovereign King yielded to this troubled, embattled pawn of Rome

He was led to the cross like a lamb to the slaughter, nailed to the cross and mocked by all without a threat or word of anger to them, praying, *‘Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.’* Luke 23:34

The snapshots of these saints demonstrate that meekness is authority and power under control; the willingness to yield personal rights; a heart of self-control trusting in God

Illus When Timothy McVeigh exploded the bomb at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, a man named Bill Day lost his sister in the explosion. The Daily Oklahoman did an extended interview with Mr. Day some time later, and the whole article was remarkable due to his lack of bitterness and wanting to get revenge – which marked so many of the other victim's families. They asked him why he was not bitter, and Day said: “Because I am a Christian, I believe no one is going to get away with anything, and it's more fearful to fall into the hands of God”

## PP b) 'Meek' defined

**PP** Meekness means strength controlled, committed to the will of its master

It was used of a wild horse, broken and trained to serve its master

Meekness is not a person who compromises easily, or possesses a shy, cautious, personality

It doesn't mean to be brainless, spineless, fragile or possess no opinions

The truth is, meekness is compatible with great strength, and a strong personality and authority

But for the meek, the self does not loom large, in fact, it looms small

This is why we must first be poor in spirit and grieve at our great capacity to sin, for then and only then are we being emptied of pride in ourselves

Meekness is a teachable spirit; an approachable person by anyone; an absence of retaliation; a

refusal to have your own back; enduring under suffering even or especially when it is

unjust; ready to listen, ready to learn truly believing we must because in ourselves we are

incapable; abandoning of rights, and future, and well-being by placing them all in the hands of our God

If we are mistreated, He will repay; If we are neglected, He will draw near; If we are without, He will provide; If we are scorned, He will favor; If we are cursed, He will bless

Are you understanding why meekness is so rare in the Christian, and so disdained by the world?

It is the work of grace in the heart of those who have seen their helplessness and dependency on ' God, whose sin has caused them grief and repentance, and they no longer want to live for themselves

*Divinely satisfied will be those whose hearts are transformed and are being brought under the power of grace to live self-controlled they will inherit the earth*

## PP 2-The Promise for the 'meek'

It is so important to keep in mind that to the Jewish people then, as well as now, their land and possessing it was a really big deal

At the time of Christ, they occupied the land of Israel, but it was under the authority of Rome

In 63 BC, Pompeii annexed their land for Rome, bringing an end to Jewish independence

The Jewish people bristled under the dominion of Rome, despising their rule, and all their people were fervently praying and awaiting the Messiah, who would politically and militarily gain their independence back from Rome, and all kinds of false Messiahs appeared

One group was called the zealots carried short swords under their cloaks, would find a Roman citizen in a crowd, stab them in the back, and walk away in the commotion

This constant uprising led to AD 70 when Titus completely destroyed Jerusalem, slaughtering 1,100,000 Jews

The constant tension continued, and Emperor Hadrian attacked the whole nation of Jewish people, with some historians saying he destroyed 985 towns and villages

Their land was everything to the Jewish people, having been given by God

***"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."* Matthew 5:5**

These words would have given such joy to those listening, but the promise was future, beyond that century, beyond the 1948 establishment of the State of Israel

The word '*inherit*' refers to the receiving of one's allotted portion, one's rightful inheritance

Israel had been promised their land all the way back to Genesis 13 on, and they were in it, but it was not theirs

But Paul said in Romans that Abraham had been promised the **‘world’**, which now brings us to the return of Jesus Christ where He consummates His kingdom over all there is

Those who are meek will be in His kingdom: ***“For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He PP adorns the humble with salvation.” Psalm 149:4***

Since meekness is a work of grace in the lives of those who believe, they are saved and will reign with Him over the whole earth when He returns

**PP** This meek are described this way: ***‘having nothing, yet possessing everything’ 2 Cor 6:10***

**PP** We are drawing from this inheritance now: ***“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” 2 Peter 1:3***

**PP** ***“So 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 the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.” 1 Corinthians 3:21-23***

Because we belong to Christ, our place in His kingdom is as secure as His!

There is one more part to this message and it is this...

### **PP 3-The Examination for Meekness**

One of the principles in studying the bible is that scripture interprets scripture, and while we can define the various meanings of meek, and how the Jews viewed their land, there is no clearer explanation of what Jesus meant than what Psalm 37 taught

**Matthew 5:5** in the Greek is virtually identical to Psalm 37:11 in the Hebrew

**PP** ***“But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.” 37:11***

The Psalm describes in detail what meekness is, and how the meek person lives and it offers us an excellent means for the Lord to search us and examine our hearts

#### **PP i. The ‘meek’ trust in God and are faithful**

In Psalm 37:3, they trust and do good, even, verse 1, when evil people seem to prosper and they don’t

You might not be able to get pregnant, or get a better job, or a better paycheck, or better health, and non Christians around you are getting all these things: the meek do not worry

#### **PP ii. The ‘meek’ delight in God**

Verse 4, the word ‘delight’ means delicate, soft, implying hearts that are tender to God, supple in His hands, shaped to His desires, becoming more like God every day

It’s the heart of the meek that truly loves to be made more like Jesus Christ continually

#### **PP iii. The ‘meek’ commit their ways to God**

This word ‘commit’ literally means *roll*, and describes the meek person who rolls, hands, heaps all their ‘way’ all their business, relationships, health, fears, frustrations on to Him

They know they can't cope with the complexities and pressures of life, so they give them to God  
When accused they let God defend them, letting God bring forth our justice like the noonday sun

**PP** iv. The **'meek'** are still before God

**'still'** does not mean free from thinking, but free from frenzy and anxiety and agitation

**PP** v. The **'meek'** refrain from anger, their passions are under control

A great deal of anger comes from worry and anxiety

Notice how the Psalmist wisely connects them: ***"Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil."*** Psalm 37:8

The meek are those whose hearts are trusting and delighting in God, free from fretting and anxiety, and instead of anger, they are abundant in peace (11)