

Beautiful Attitudes
The Christians Character
“The Meek”
Matthew 5:5

Introduction - What? “*Blessed are the meek?*” “*For they shall inherit the earth?*”

How can this be? Does Jesus really mean what he said, “*the meek shall inherit the earth?*” Shouldn’t it be “*the strong*” or “*the ambitious*” or “*the aggressive*” or the “*self-sufficient,*” “*the proud.*”

Surely Jesus has made a mistake? This third Beatitude is perhaps the most paradoxical of all! But God’s kingdom is different than mans. God’s ways are different than ours. Not many in the world today will be know as meed. Most people think of *meekness* as *weakness*. They think it’s being a spineless sissy or “Mr. Milquetoast.” But that’s not true meekness!

The Bible tells us that *Moses* was the meekest man on the earth, Num. 12:3. However he was not weak!

Jesus said, “I am meek and lowly in heart.” Yet he was not weak!

I. What Then Is Meekness?

It’s power under control. It’s hard to define or understand meekness with just one word of idea. The word **meek** means: *gentle, submissive, humble, tenderhearted, considerate, patient, and courteous.*

The word was used in Jesus’ day to describe three things:

- 1. A soothing medicine.**
- 2. A gentle breeze.**
- 3. A colt that had been broken!**

“The meek are those who quietly submit themselves before God, to His word, and to His rod, who follow His directions and comply with His designs, and are gentle toward men.” - Matthew Henry

My definition - It’s submission to God. It’s gentle toward men.

II. How Does Meekness Manifest Itself?

1. Seen in the lives of the Old Testament Saints.

- Abraham and Lot
- Joseph and his brothers.
- David

2. Seen in my attitude.

A. My attitude towards God's word! Check yourself.

James 1:21, *"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with **meekness** the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."*

B. My attitude toward a brother who sins.

Gal. 6:1, *"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 be tempted."*

C. My attitude toward division in the church.

Eph. 4:1-3, *"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and **meekness**, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

D. My attitude towards the unsaved.

1 Peter 3:15, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and 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."*

E. My attitude towards the workers of iniquity, who plot against the just.

- Psalm 37:1-11, read it!

3. How does the meek person respond to the wicked who come against them?

1. They "fret not," vs. 1-2
2. The "trust in the Lord," vs. 3
3. "Delight in the Lord," vs. 4
4. "Commit unto the Lord," vs. 5
5. "Rest in the Lord," vs. 7
6. "Forsake wrath," vs. 8

So, if I am meek, I submit to God's plan for my life! I bear injuries from men without anger, malice, revenge, or unforgiveness! **Illustration** - Jesus on the cross, 1 Peter 4:19, *"wherefore let them..."*

III. What is the Result of Meekness?

1. They are *blessed*, Matt. 5:5

- “*For they shall inherit the earth.*” This promise has both a *present* and a *future* fulfillment!
- *The Present Fulfillment.* 2 Corinthians 6:10, Paul described himself as *having nothing yet possessing all things.*

“The meek person owns everything because he is submitted to the God who made everything and controls everything, and this God is his father.” - Warren W. Wiersbe

Illustration - Donald Trump and the humblest Christian. Ps. 37:16, “*A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.*”

The Christian can sing, “*This is my Father’s world!*”

- A Future Fulfillment!

1. When? At Christ second coming.
2. “If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him.”
3. Rev. 20:4, “They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”
4. Rev. 20. New Heaven and a New Earth!

“The godless may boast and throw their weight about, yet real possession eludes their grasp. The meek, on the other hand, although they may be deprived and disenfranchised by men, yet because they know what it is to live and reign with Christ, can enjoy and even ‘possess’ the earth, which belongs to Christ. Then on the day of ‘the regeneration’ there will be ‘new heavens and a new earth’ for them to inherit.” - John R. Stott

IV. How Can I Become Meek?

1. Matt. 5:3, 4 - “Poor” and “Mourn”
2. It’s the fruit of the Holy Spirit, Gal. 5:23
3. Come to Jesus, Matt. 11:28-30

Submit to Jesus!
Don’t resist Him!

