

Learning Meekness-5 5
Matthew 5:5

As we go through these Beatitudes and we look at them in our relationship with the Lord

We see a progression:

First, we are poor in the spirit, that is spiritual bankrupt without a relationship with the Lord
Second, that results in the brokenness or mourning over our sinfulness, that we are always looking to God as we should be going to God and confessing our sins and failures

And that brings us to meekness which results in righteousness

The essential difference between being “poor in the spirit” and being “meek” is that poverty of spirit that focuses on our sinfulness whereas meekness focuses on God’s holiness.

When we look at ourselves we are made humble by seeing how sinful and unworthy we are

When we look at God we are made humble by seeing how righteous and worthy He is

Listen, the blessedness that comes from the Beatitudes are for those who are realistic about their sinfulness, who are repentant of their sins and who are responsive to God in His righteousness

Listen pride and arrogance, unrepentance, the self-sufficient who see in themselves no unworthiness and feel no need for God’s help and God’s righteousness will be shut out of the kingdom of heaven

Like the other beatitudes we have looked at this is so contrary to the modern teaching of power and secular leadership

Most people have the idea that meekness is equal to weakness, maybe that is you

Gal. 5 teaches, in the fruit of the spirit, that meekness is evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit at work in a believer’s life, it is the fruit of the spirit

Read verses

1) Encouragement Of Meekness-vs. 5

- a) “blessed are the meek”
- b) Some of you might have gentle
- c) I think the best word is meekness
- d) It is really described as strength under control
- e) It carries the idea of a wild horse running free with all his strength, but then one day a cowboy begins to break that horse in, the horse is just as swift and strong but now that power is under the control of the master
- f) The animal is meek but certainly not weak
- g) Let me put it this way

- h) A meek person is God-controlled rather than self-controlled
 - i) This word meek is what they call in Greek an active form
 - j) That means the attitude of the believer towards sin is combating it instead of being passive in attitude
 - k) Look with me at the first four beatitudes, yes I know we have not looked at the fourth one yet, but I will wet your appetite for next week
 - l) There is the revelation that we are poor in the spirit
 - m) Which brings about results as we mourn over our sins
 - n) Which then brings a response to meekness
 - o) So that we can receive righteousness that is we can hunger and thirst for it
 - p) Meekness is the positive result in seeking righteousness
 - q) It can be described as a gentle breeze
 - r) You know that a gentle breeze can feel great on hot days and nights
 - s) But some winds can be strong and tear things apart
 - t) A breeze is wind under control
 - u) Going back to the horse, a horse that is broken can give both work and pleasure to the master, but a horse out of control is a dangerous thing
 - v) **Prov. 16:32—“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.**
 - w) **Prov. 25:28—“Like a city that is broken into and without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.**
 - x) There are several verses in Proverbs that talk about control our tempers
 - y) Meekness is being gentle in spirit, tenderhearted
- 2) **Cases of Meekness-vs. 5**
- a) Jesus is teaching here and of course is always the best example
 - b) Jesus coming into Jerusalem in the triumphal entry was hailed as the coming King, though He was “gentle” and mounted on a donkey
 - c) Most of Jesus’ hearers were concerned about justifying their own ways, defending their own rights and serving their own ends
 - d) Listen there is never anything I can say to justify my sins
 - e) Listen the way to meekness is not our way
 - f) The proud Pharisees wanted a miraculous kingdom
 - g) The proud Sadducees wanted a materialistic kingdom
 - h) The proud Zealots wanted a military kingdom
 - i) But listen Jesus offers a meek kingdom
 - j) A thought just hit me, is there going to be pride in heaven, is there going to be a look at me mentality in heaven...NO!!!
 - k) Let me show you a few examples of meekness from Scripture
 - l) Jesus’ Salvation:
 - 1) **Matt. 18:2-4—“And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, 3 and said, “Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**
 - m) God’s Word:

- 1) **Jam. 1:21**—“**Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.**
- 2) Meekness creates the soft soil of the heart
- n) Saint’s Defense:
 - 1) **1 Pet. 3:15**—“**but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;**
 - 2) Meekness is necessary because only meekness gives glory to God
 - 3) Pride is all about our own glory
 - 4) Meekness has always been God’s way for man
- o) Abraham was Lot’s uncle and his elder, yet Abraham willingly let Lot take whatever land he wanted, in meekness he gladly waived his rights and laid aside his power
- p) Joseph was abused by his jealous brothers, sold into slavery, you know the story. By God’s gracious plan, he came to second only to the Pharaoh in Egypt, he was in a position to take severe vengeance on his brothers...his response
 - 1) **Gen. 45:5, 8**—“**Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life...Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.**
 - 2) **Gen. 50:19-20**—“**But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.**
- q) David was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel to replace Saul as Israel’s king. But when in a cave, David had an opportunity to take Saul’s life David refused to do so
 - 1) The difference between Saul and David is Saul was out of control and David was power under control
- r) Christ of course the greatest example
 - 1) **1 Pet. 2:23**—“**and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;**
 - 2) **Phil. 2:8**—“**Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**
- s) Remember meekness is not something we can manufacture, it is the fruit that God gives us
- t) Fruit must be cultivated
- u) It has been said that we cultivate meekness in the difficult experiences of life
- v) Moses is referred to as the meekness man on earth, yet he lost his temper and killed an Egyptian
- w) God put him on the backside of the desert for 40 years in order to prepare him for ministry
- x) King Saul had opportunities to learn meekness but never did because he always tried to scheme his way out of the difficulties of life
- y) Instead of trials bringing the best out in him, they brought out the worst in him
- z) He always had an excuse ready whenever Samuel showed up
- aa) Evangelist Billy Sunday said, “an excuse is the skin of a reason, stuffed with a lie”

bb) Saul tried to use his authority to make himself great

cc) But David said of God,

dd) Ps. 18:35—“You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, And Your right hand upholds me; And Your gentleness makes me great.

3) The End and The Meek-vs. 5

a) “shall inherit the earth”

b) To reign as king over yourself and your circumstances through the power of the Holy Spirit

c) When we are meek, we seek nothing for ourselves and when we seek nothing for ourselves God gives us all things

d) Saul’s self-seeking cost him his crown, but David’s meekness gave him the kingdom

e) Listen to this great truth

f) Meekness means power under control and when you control yourself everything belongs to you

g) If you can reign in peace over the kingdom within you, then God will give you all you need in the kingdom that is without

h) You know the greatest enemy to meekness is impatience

i) Ps. 37:4—“Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart

j) We need to wait on the Lord