

The Beatitudes: The Meek and Gentle

September 11, 2016

Matthew 5:1-12 NASB

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
- 2 He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,
- 3 Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 **Blessed are the GENTLE, for they shall INHERIT THE EARTH.**
- 6 Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.
- 9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 Blessed are those who have been **persecuted** for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Matthew 5:5 NASB

- 5 **Blessed are the GENTLE** (*praÿs - mild disposition, meek, humble, gentle*), **for they shall INHERIT THE EARTH.**

"Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time (Isa 41:17, Luk 18:1-8). Gentleness or meekness is the opposite to self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will (Gal 5:23)." Larry Pierce, "The Outline of Biblical Usage"

1. A CHRISTIAN'S MEEKNESS/GENTLENESS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HEALTH MONITORS FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP AND TRUST IN GOD.

*Meekness and gentleness are the direct result of one's trust in God. When you are trusting God, all striving ceases. You are no longer compelled to promote, assert, defend or justify yourself. You know and are assured that your life and your circumstances are intimately and exactly directed by God's sovereignty. You are set free from striving to be in control. **When you are at peace with God, you are at peace with others, and that peace expresses itself in meekness and gentleness.***

James 4:1-2 NASB

- 1 **WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF QUARRELS AND CONFLICTS AMONG YOU? IS NOT THE SOURCE YOUR PLEASURES THAT WAGE WAR IN YOUR MEMBERS?**
- 2 You lust and do not have; **SO YOU COMMIT MURDER.** You are envious and cannot obtain; **SO YOU FIGHT AND QUARREL.** You do not have because you do not ask.

Psalms 16:5-6 NASB

- 5 **THE LORD IS THE PORTION OF MY INHERITANCE AND MY CUP; YOU SUPPORT** (*tamak - hold, uphold, hold up, lay hold of, seize, grasp*) **MY LOT** (*gowral - pebbles used for making decisions, things assigned to me by casting lots*).
- 6 **THE LINES HAVE FALLEN TO ME IN PLEASANT PLACES; INDEED, MY HERITAGE IS BEAUTIFUL TO ME.**

Psalm 16:11 NASB

11 **YOU WILL MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE PATH OF LIFE; IN YOUR PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; IN YOUR RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES FOREVER.**

2. **MEEKNESS DOES NOT SEEK TO EXCUSE, JUSTIFY, COMPETE, CONQUER, DEFEND OR RETALIATE OUT OF A PRIDEFUL OR SELFISH AMBITION.**

Meekness is courage; it is not timidity nor fear. Meekness is not the fear to fight, but the refusal to fight because you know your life is in your Heavenly Father's hands. You choose by faith to leave all matters of life and circumstance in God's sovereign plan, wisdom and control.

Meekness is a carefulness to make sure nothing is done in prideful or selfish arrogant ambition.

The message of meekness is not to back down, give up and give in. The message of meekness is that you don't have to fight because you have a God Who fights for you. You have nothing to fear, because God is on your side. His will, His plans, His counsels are always right and best.

Numbers 12:1-11 ESV

1 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.

2 And they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" **AND THE LORD HEARD IT.**

3 **NOW THE MAN MOSES WAS VERY MEEK** (*anav - humble, meek, lowly*), **MORE THAN ALL PEOPLE WHO WERE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

4 **AND SUDDENLY THE LORD SAID TO MOSES AND TO AARON AND MIRIAM, "COME OUT, YOU THREE, TO THE TENT OF MEETING."** AND THE THREE OF THEM CAME OUT.

5 **AND THE LORD CAME DOWN IN A PILLAR OF CLOUD AND STOOD AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE TENT AND CALLED AARON AND MIRIAM, AND THEY BOTH CAME FORWARD.**

6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream.

7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house.

8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. **WHY THEN WERE YOU NOT AFRAID TO SPEAK AGAINST MY SERVANT MOSES?**

9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

10 When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous.

11 And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned.

Matthew 5:38-41 NASB

38 You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

39 **BUT I SAY TO YOU, DO NOT RESIST AN EVIL PERSON;** but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

40 If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat also.

41 Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two.

Psalm 37:7-11 NASB

7 **REST IN THE LORD AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM; DO NOT FRET BECAUSE OF HIM WHO PROSPERS IN HIS WAY, BECAUSE OF THE MAN WHO CARRIES OUT WICKED SCHEMES.**

8 **CEASE FROM ANGER AND FORSAKE WRATH; DO NOT FRET; IT LEADS ONLY TO EVILDOING.**

9 **FOR EVILDOERS WILL BE CUT OFF, BUT THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD, THEY WILL INHERIT THE LAND.**

10 **YET A LITTLE WHILE AND THE WICKED MAN WILL BE NO MORE; AND YOU WILL LOOK CAREFULLY FOR HIS PLACE AND HE WILL NOT BE THERE.**

11 **BUT THE HUMBLE WILL INHERIT THE LAND AND WILL DELIGHT THEMSELVES IN ABUNDANT PROSPERITY.**

Philippians 4:4 NASB

4 REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS; AGAIN I WILL SAY, REJOICE!

5 LET YOUR GENTLE SPIRIT (*epieikēs - gentle, mild, fair, equitable, suitable, patient, moderation*) BE KNOWN TO ALL MEN. THE LORD IS NEAR.

3. MEEKNESS IS THE SURRENDER OF ALL PERSONAL:

- a. **AGENDA** (*my plans and goals for my life*)
- b. **METHODS** (*the way I think things should be done*)
- c. **TIMING** (*when I think things should happen*)
- d. **WISDOM** (*my understanding, reasoning and logic*)

Matthew 16:21-24 NASB

21 From that time **JESUS BEGAN TO SHOW HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE MUST GO TO JERUSALEM, AND SUFFER MANY THINGS** from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

22 **PETER TOOK HIM ASIDE AND BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM, SAYING, "GOD FORBID IT, LORD! THIS SHALL NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU."**

23 But He turned and said to Peter, "**GET BEHIND ME, SATAN! YOU ARE A STUMBLING BLOCK TO ME; FOR YOU ARE NOT SETTING YOUR MIND ON GOD'S INTERESTS, BUT MAN'S.**"

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "**IF ANYONE WISHES TO COME AFTER ME, HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.**"

4. MEEKNESS IS NOT WEAKNESS NOR FEAR, BUT GREAT STRENGTH AND COURAGE.

Sometimes meekness will stand before the High Priest in silence, refusing to defend yourself. Sometimes meekness will rebuke the religious hypocrites and Pharisees in teaching and doctrine. Sometimes meekness will overturn the tables of the moneychangers. Sometimes meekness will cause you to confront Pharaoh.

In fact, the power of meekness is greater than all the combined forces of Satan's kingdom and all the world's kingdoms. No power can defeat or destroy a meek Christian.

1 Peter 2:21-23 NASB

21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

22 Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth;

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;

Matthew 26:44-56 NASB

44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

45 Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

46 "GET UP, LET US BE GOING; BEHOLD, THE ONE WHO BETRAYS ME IS AT HAND!"

47 While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him."

49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 And Jesus said to him, "**FRIEND, DO WHAT YOU HAVE COME FOR.**" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "**PUT YOUR SWORD BACK INTO ITS PLACE; FOR ALL THOSE WHO TAKE UP THE SWORD SHALL PERISH BY THE SWORD.**"

53 "**OR DO YOU THINK THAT I CANNOT APPEAL TO MY FATHER, AND HE WILL AT ONCE PUT AT MY DISPOSAL MORE THAN TWELVE LEGIONS OF ANGELS?**"

54 "**HOW THEN WILL THE SCRIPTURES BE FULFILLED, WHICH SAY THAT IT MUST HAPPEN THIS WAY?**"

55 At that time Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me.

56 "**BUT ALL THIS HAS TAKEN PLACE TO FULFILL THE SCRIPTURES OF THE PROPHETS.**" **THEN ALL THE DISCIPLES LEFT HIM AND FLED.**

Philippians 1:28 NASB

28 **IN NO WAY ALARMED BY YOUR OPPONENTS--WHICH IS A SIGN OF DESTRUCTION FOR THEM, BUT OF SALVATION FOR YOU,** and that too, from God.

5. MEEKNESS DOES NOT SEEK TO POSSESS, DOMINATE, CONTROL OR CHANGE ANOTHER PERSON.

Meekness respects the boundaries of Jesus' personal lordship and the person's free will.

John 6:66-67 ESV

66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?"

Luke 9:51-56 NASB

51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

52 and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him.

53 But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem.

54 When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

55 But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of;

56 for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went on to another village.

John 8:3-11 NASB

3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court,

4 They said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act."

5 "Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?"

6 They were saying this, testing him, so that they might have grounds for accusing him. But Jesus stooped down and with his finger wrote on the ground.

7 But when they persisted in asking him, he straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court.

10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."