

The Secret to Happiness
“Happiness Through Meekness”
Matthew 5:5
Pastor John Miller

Introduction: The teaching of Jesus Christ was unique. It was said of Him “Never a man spake like this man.”

*** One of the magnificent things about Christ’s teaching was His use of paradoxical statements.**

- “The last shall be first...”
- “Give and it shall be given unto you”
- “He who finds his life shall lose it...”

*** Perhaps one of His greatest paradoxical statements is found in our text today—Matthew 5:5- “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”**

- How can this be?
 - We would expect Jesus to say “the strong,” “the self-assertive,” or “the powerful.”
 - But, Jesus said “the meek”
- This seems shocking! Why?
 - Because we have the wrong idea about what it means to be “meek.”

*** Remember, The Beatitudes describe those who are living in “The Kingdom of Heaven,” and God’s kingdom is different than mans.**

- God’s kingdom is entered by the “poor in spirit” (v. 3), and by “they that mourn” (v. 4).
- Now, Jesus says “blessed are the meek.”
 - True Christians are to be marked by meekness!
 - Colossians 3:12- Paul tells us “put on as the elect of God...meekness.”
 - 1 Timothy 6:11- “But thou, O man of God flee these things and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness...”
 - 1 Peter 3:4-“But let it be the hidden person of the heart...”

I. What Does it Mean to be Meek?

*** If only the “meek” are “blessed” or “happy,” I want to understand what it means!**

A. What “meekness” is not!

1. It is not weakness
2. It is not a timid person
3. It is not being naturally nice or easy-going.
 - a. None of the Beatitudes are natural.
 - b. They are supernatural!

B. What is “meekness?”

1. It is difficult to define with just one word or idea, but the Greek adjective means “gentle,” “humble,” “submissive,” “to be easily imposed on,” “considerate,” or “courteous.”
 - a. Its “power under control”
 - b. Illustration- Used of a horse that was broken and obedient to its rider.
2. Matthew Henry- *“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 towards men.”*
3. Note in context- the progression:
 - a. (v. 3) “poor in spirit” (before God)
 - b. (v. 4) “mourn” (seeing myself)
 - c. (v. 5) “meek” (God and others)
4. So, meekness is both toward God and toward man and others.

C. Meekness toward God

1. It’s submitting to God. Letting God have His way in your heart and life.
 - a. Psalm 46:10- “Be still and know that I am God” (literally “take your hands off.”)
2. It’s submitting to God’s Word without disputing, complaining, murmuring or grumbling.
 - a. James 1:21- “...receive with meekness the engrafted or implanted word, which is able to save your souls or life.”
3. Two people called “meek” in the Bible:
 - a. Moses (Numbers 12:3) was the “meekest man on the earth”
 - b. Jesus (Matthew 11:29) “For I am meek and lowly in heart”
 - i. Illustration- The Garden of Gethsemane

D. Meekness towards others

* How does meekness manifest itself toward others?

1. It humbly bears injuries
 - a. Not getting angry
 - b. Not having malice
 - c. Not taking revenge
2. It forgives others
 - a. A meek person is a forgiving person

- b. Ephesians 4:31-32- “Let all bitterness and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice. And be ye kind (or meek) one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ sake has forgiven you.”
- 3. It does not recompense evil for evil
 - a. Illustration- Jesus on the cross
 - b. Psalms 37:9-11- “For evildoers shall be cut off: but those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be; yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. Be the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”
 - c. Psalms 37:1-8- Six things meek people do:
 - i. (v. 1) “Fret not”
 - ii. (v. 3) “Trust in the LORD”
 - iii. (v. 4) “Delight thyself also in the LORD”
 - iv. (v. 5) “Commit thy way unto the LORD”
 - v. (v. 7) “Rest in the LORD”
 - vi. (v. 8) “Cease from anger and forsake wrath”

II. What is the Paradoxical Reward for the Meek?

A. They are “blessed” or “happy”

- 1. They have God’s approval

B. They shall “inherit the earth” (v. 5)

- 1. “They” is emphatic—“they only”
- 2. When?
 - a. The Second Coming of Christ!

CONCLUSION

*** Are you meek?**

*** How to become meek:**

- 1) See your “poverty in spirit.”
- 2) “Mourn” over your sin!
- 3) Humbly submit to God and His Word.
 - a. Psalms 149:4- The Lord will “beautify the meek with salvation”

*** You must come to Jesus!**