



The Beatitudes

An Inductive Study

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Lesson #3

The inductive method is an investigative way of studying the Bible. It helps to provide an overall understanding of a passage of Scripture: what it says, the intended meaning to the original audience, and how it can be applied to today.

The Beatitudes - KJV

Matthew 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn:
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger &
thirst after righteousness:
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful:
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted
for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#3 BLESSED ARE THE MEEK FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH



Blessed Are the Meek For They Shall Inherit the Earth

Matthew 5:5 KJV

In our verse-by-verse exposition of the Gospel of Matthew.....Matthew chapter 5 we are studying the portion of the Sermon on The Mount known as The Beatitudes.

As you all are aware the beatitudes are instruction from Jesus Himself on how we are to endure trials and handle our afflictions as believers.

And as we learn and grow in the knowledge of what the power of Christ can do. We become eligible to receive blessings from the Lord.

So, we have seen that in the Beatitudes Jesus describes what it looks like to be His true disciple. He teaches us what to “be” before He tells us what to “do”.

I must remind all of you that the Beatitudes are not goals for human aim or reward. However, they are gifts of God's transforming grace, that will characterize and empower those who know Jesus Christ.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus was giving us the marks of the kingdom, and the evidences of His lordship.

The good news is that with God in us and working through us.... we can accomplish the impossible...

However, without God we accomplish nothing.

So if you are working hard to pursue these qualities without first being born of God into His kingdom..... by the regenerating work of the Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ, then you will end in frustration.

We must remember that the Beatitudes are our guide to Christian living that can only be accomplished by the aid and leading of the Holy Spirit.

Questions to Ponder:

1. Who Wrote the Beatitudes?
2. Where can they be found?
3. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
4. What does it mean to mourn?

As a reminder from our previous studies:

The first three of the beatitudes share a common purpose. They teach us that a disciple of Jesus is one whom has come to terms with his or her great need for God's grace.

In the first beatitude, Jesus said, "**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God**" (Matt. 5:3).

Jesus was teaching us that the man or woman who is truly on the pathway to receive blessings from God, is the one who realizes that he or she has nothing to offer God.

We simply come as “poor” sinners, who are spiritually bankrupt. Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who come to Him in such desperate need.

The second beatitude builds on the first. Jesus said, “**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted**” (Matt. 5:4).

Jesus’ disciples are not only those who come to God in the absolute poverty of their souls and in desperate need of God’s grace; they also come with genuine sorrow and mourning over the sins that caused them to be in that spiritual condition.

Jesus promised that those who mourn over their sins in this way, will be comforted. God will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Therefore, giving us peace and comfort by resting in His ability to cover and protect us.

1. How does Jesus comfort us when we mourn our sins?

#3 BLESSED ARE THE MEEK FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

Today, we come to the third beatitude. And in order for us to receive the blessing of the third, we must view it in relation to the first two.

People who truly recognize the poverty of their own souls before God, and who truly mourn over the grievousness of their sins, are people who have a proper perspective of themselves.

They know that they cannot stand before God with a sense of pride and self-assertiveness. They no longer look to solve the problems and issues they are facing with the flesh....

The flesh says I am mad, I am angry, I want revenge for the wrong. I am not going to forget.....As a matter of fact I am going to make the person feel my wrath.

However, Jesus says there is no blessing in that type of thinking. He is essentially saying “revenge is not my character nor your job to exact revenge”.

The bible says in [Hebrews 10:30](#) ESV

For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

It is our job as Jesus puts it in this 5th verse of Mathew...that those of us who are truly seeking the Lord....become meek and they are blessed because they recognize that the battle is not yours.... but it belongs to Him.

Those who are meek, no longer see themselves as having any right to be “in control” and they submit to His rightful rule over their lives.

The simplest way to put it is:

Having a true knowledge of ourselves before God puts in a position to be used by God....through His power and not our own.

We no longer come to God with a demanding, self-serving, self-exalting attitude.

Rather, we stop thinking about ourselves altogether. Jesus teaches, “**Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth**” ([Matthew 5:5](#)).

As we did with the other two beatitudes, we will ask two questions about this 3rd one.

1.What does it mean to be meek?

2. What is the blessing tied to being meek?

Of all the beatitudes, many scholars say that this beatitude - *is the one most easily misunderstood.*

Because, somehow, we’ve learned to associate “**meekness**” with the idea of **weakness**.

– So much so, that we traditionally understand and tell ourselves that Jesus is saying,

“Blessed are the passive;” or “Blessed are the victims;” or “Blessed are the wimps.” **But that is not at all what Jesus is talking about.**

True Meaning of Meekness

The Greek adjective that’s translated “meek” (*praus*) is one that means “gentle,” “humble,” or “considerate,” or “courteous.”

It describes a person who is not overly impressed by a sense of one’s self-importance, but instead one who is gentle, humble, lowly, and is considerate or mild.

Meekness is not only the opposite of pride, but of stubbornness, fierceness, and vengefulness. It is the opposite of self-will toward God, and of ill-will toward men.

We cannot be blessed if we don’t eliminate our need to control the situations that are currently controlling us!

1. Bitterness and Anger
2. Hatred and Jealousy
3. Jezebel Spirits of Control and Putting others down
4. Unforgiveness and Gas Lighting others

In our moments of offending Jesus and sinning against him.....Jesus showed meekness by not giving us what we deserved.

1. He forgave Us more than once!
2. He forgave Us more than twice!
3. He forgave us more than we deserved!

He remained committed to seeing the best in us, regardless of how we messed up!

If we are to become meek in nature as Jesus, we must extend the same courtesies to others when they mess up. We should not become a part of the problem but a part of the solution through prayer and reconciliation.

Galatians 6:1 KJV states:

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 also be tempted.

By restoring we show meekness and gentleness not for the offender, but so that we please God.

The word “meek” literally suggest that we are not controlled by vain ideologies of exacting punishment, ostracization, or calling out of sin.

But we are gentle in nature and represent the true nature of Christ who He Himself is gentle with us in our failures, and sins against one another.

In Classical Greek the word *praus* was used to describe the word MEEK....

It means to tame or cause to calm and gentle animals (an unbroken colt was dangerous);

It is also a soothing medicine (medicine that was too strong would harm rather than cure), a mild or soft word (cf. Proverbs 15:1);

Meekness is a gentle voice (emotion out of control would destroy and tear down).
Meekness is a gentle breeze (wind out of control would bring destruction).
All those ideas imply the idea of strength or power brought under control.

William Barclay gives an amplified version of this beatitude:

O the bliss of the man who is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time, who has every instinct, and impulse, and passion under control because he himself is God-controlled, who has the humility to realize his own ignorance and his own weakness, for such a man is a king among men!

However, meekness has a two-fold focus. It involves our relationship to God and our relationships with other people.

Meekness is an inward grace expressed in an outward behavior toward others.

It is therefore two things. It is my attitude towards myself; and it is an expression of that in my relationship to others.”

D.A. Carson has defined it as “a controlling desire to see other’s interests advanced ahead of one’s own.”

Many scholars believe that Jesus’ words in this beatitude are a reflection of **Psalm 37:11 KJV**; which says,

“But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.”

Meekness is not weakness; it is power under control. As the writer of Proverbs says,

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city" (**Proverbs 16:32**).

Gentleness always uses its resources appropriately, unlike the out-of-control emotions that so often are destructive and have no place in your life as a believer.

As Christians we are to place our emotions into the hands of the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide our thoughts.

1. What Happens when we don’t allow the Holy Spirit to take control?

In Psalm 37 David’s focus is clearly upon trusting and submitting to the LORD, setting God upon the throne of his life. Listen to **Psalm 37:1-11**:

¹ *Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.*
² *For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb.*
³ *Trust in the Lord, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.*
⁴ *Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*
⁵ *Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.*

*¹⁰ For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more;
Indeed, you will look carefully for his place,
But it shall be no more.*

*¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the
abundance of peace. (Psalm 37:1-11).*

Meekness did not refer to a person who is weak or spineless. It referred to a person who has yielded his/her strength to God's control.

Matthew 11:29 NIV is that Jesus identified Himself as meek. He said, "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"....other versions I am meek and lowly in heart.

So, when Jesus states in our study, "**Blessed are the meek,**" He was, in effect, saying, "Blessed are those who imitate Me because I am meek."

And based on the life of Jesus, we can easily conclude that meekness is not a synonym for spinelessness, fearfulness, or weakness.

It is a synonym for "I want to become more like Jesus"

Therefore, the call to discipleship is not a call to be a spineless doormat that just gets trampled on by everybody.

"The call to discipleship is about to surrendering your all to the Master...."

So, what are we to surrender to the Master?

1. Everything

The point is that meekness results from a deliberate decision to release the wheel, abandon the throne, or hand over the keys to God.

Meekness allows God to take control of every situation so that we don't lose control.

This is precisely what disciples were called to do in Luke 9:23 KJV when Jesus said,

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me”?

- 1. What Crosses are you baring today, that you are refusing to take up?**
- 2. Why do you refuse to not give them up and follow Jesus?**

One of the reasons many refuse to let go and let God is because many Christians don't understand the true meaning.

They look at being meek as to being a pushover or timid.

This beatitude, which says “Blessed are the meek,” is not calling the timid blessed.

Instead, it's pronouncing a blessing on those who are willing to be yoked and guided by the Lord.

And who will submit everything they are going through to the will of God.

- 1. What are some things that prevent us from submitting everything to God?**

Plainly, a truly meek man or woman is one who has removed self from the throne, and has allowed God to take His rightful place there.

This is the essential dynamic of true meekness—a willing submission to the rule of God over our lives.

Such a person who has surrendered the throne of his or her life to God exhibits meekness in that he or she is submitted to God's will instead of their own.

Jesus always leads by example and gives us the hope that when we abide in His will, we too can inherit his ways.

Jesus demonstrated this for us when He said, “**For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me**” (John 3:38 KJV).

A truly meek man or woman no longer seeks his or her own will, but the will of God.

And with this, such a person is also surrendered to obedience to God's written word. They demonstrate true meekness in that they are surrendered to God's will as it is revealed to them in the Scriptures.

When we become meek, Mathew 5:5 states that we are blessed.... blessed are the meek. The blessing only comes when we submit to Him.

What is the Blessing?

Blessed Are the Meek, **For They Will Inherit the Earth.**

As we journey on this walk of faith, we are going to be tested, tried, and tempted.

However, the goal of the Christian is to become more like Christ in every aspect of our life.

When we give it all to Christ and allow His will to be done. God will bless us with the keys to the kingdom.

We all should rejoice in the fact that Jesus' promise is that those who are meek in this sense will be "blessed".

This leads us to next ask . . .

1. How are the meek blessed?

Jesus tells us how they are blessed in the second half of the verse: "**For they shall inherit the earth.**"

The very thing that the movers and shakers of this world are seeking to gain for themselves is given, instead, to those who refrain from moving and shaking!

The very attitude that the 'high and mighty' ones of this world scorn is the very one that the Son of God rewards with all things!

To “inherit” something implies that someone is given something by someone else on the basis of relationship.

The Bible tells us that God has appointed Jesus to be “**heir of all things**” (Hebrews 1:2); and because we are “in Christ”, we share in His inheritance. Paul writes, “**In Him, also we have obtained an inheritance**” (Eph. 1:11).

I would submit to you that the only people truly satisfied on earth are those who know this character quality of meekness.

For they have come to the point of deep satisfaction in what God has provided for them. They are not asserting their own rights or complaining about their circumstances or selfishly grabbing for more in life.

They have learned contentment in submission to the will of God.

Those who submit their power to God **will inherit the perfect kingdom coming to earth.**

In this kingdom, we receive by God’s grace, the good things the arrogant fruitlessly strive for in the present earth, and more.

And this is not a future reality only. Even in a broken world, those who recognize their true strengths and weaknesses can find peace by living realistically.

Those who exercise power for the benefit of *others* are often admired.

The meek engage others in decision making and experience better results and deeper relationships.

But there is also a future culmination to this promise, “**for they shall inherit the earth.**”

It is a reminder that however long we are in this life, and whatever circumstances good or bad that we face, it is not over for the meek—the best is yet to come.

The whole creation is “groaning and travailing until now” in anticipation of that day, when sin and sorrow have no more place in our lives, and righteousness and

holiness fills the earth (Rom 8:18-25; I Cor 15:23-28). That is our inheritance in Jesus Christ, forever and ever!^[8]

Jesus gave this startling promise to His disciples:

The meek are the only ones who inherit the earth. The “**they**” in “they shall inherit” is emphatic:

“They alone, only they, shall inherit the earth.” They are rich right now; and fifty billion trillion years into eternity they will be lavishing in the unfolding of “**the exceeding riches of His grace.**”

Finally, walk in the Spirit. True meekness is not a natural trait. The meekness that receives the blessing that Jesus promises is something that is “superhuman” and isn’t created through our own resolves or efforts or personality styles.

It’s a gift of God’s grace through the ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, the presence of Christ, who lives the life of “meekness” through us.

As Paul wrote, “**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness or “meekness”, self-control**” (Gal. 5:22-23).

Final Thoughts

Have you come to Jesus and laid your burden of sin and guilt upon Him? Have you taken His yoke upon yourself so that He is Lord and Master, leading and teaching you daily?

Have you believed in Jesus Christ, His death on the cross to forgive your sin and His resurrection from the dead to give you a new life?

Are you born again by the Spirit of God? Does the Holy Spirit dwell in you and produce in you the fruit of meekness? Come to the savior today.