

Summary

This sermon is the third installment in a summer series on the Beatitudes, focusing on Matthew 5:5: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." The pastor unpacks the meaning of meekness, clarifying that it is not weakness, self-deprecation, or passivity. Instead, meekness is a full posture of living that submits one's strengths, power, and influence entirely to the will of God. True humility, the pastor explains, means recognizing that God is the source of every gift and ability we have, and pointing those gifts back to His glory rather than our own. The sermon builds toward the ultimate example of meekness: Jesus during His trial, flogging, and crucifixion. Despite being the God of the universe and an innocent man, Jesus remained silent before His accusers, refused to use His power for self-preservation, and instead spoke words of forgiveness for those who crucified Him. The pastor contrasts Jesus with Barabbas, a violent revolutionary who represents the world's idea of power and dominance. The call to the congregation is to submit to Jesus, to display the fruit of the Spirit in every relationship, and to embrace meekness as a daily lifestyle rather than an occasional quality.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the opportunity to gather and seek Your truth together. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to be truly meek, we ask that You quiet our pride and soften our hearts. Help us to set aside our own agendas and preconceived ideas, and make us genuinely open to what You want to teach us today. May Your Holy Spirit guide every word spoken and every thought shared in this group. It is in the name of Jesus, our humble and meek Savior, that we pray. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you consider yourself genuinely good at, and who or what do you credit for helping you develop that ability?

Key Verses

- Matthew 5:5
- Matthew 27:11-14

- Matthew 27:15-26
- Isaiah 53:7
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

Questions

- The pastor described meekness as a 'posture of living' rather than an occasional quality. What does that distinction mean to you personally, and how does it change the way you think about meekness?
- The sermon drew a clear line between self-deprecation and true humility. Have you ever confused the two in your own life? How would you now describe the difference?
- In 1 Peter 4:7-11 (NLT), Peter calls believers to serve with the strength God provides so that God receives the glory. What is one area of your life where you find it hardest to give God credit for your abilities rather than taking that credit yourself?
- Jesus remained almost completely silent during His trial, even though He had every right and ability to defend Himself. What do you think that kind of restraint requires on a practical, day-to-day level for us as followers of Christ?
- The crowd chose Barabbas, a violent revolutionary, over Jesus. The pastor suggested people often prefer a 'hammer' type of leader. Why do you think the world, and sometimes even the church, is drawn to power and dominance rather than meekness?
- The sermon pointed out that meekness does not mean giving up your power, but submitting your power to the will of God. Can you think of a situation in your own life, at work, at home, or in your community, where you have power or influence? How might submitting that to God look different from how you currently use it?
- Jesus' final words on the cross included a request for forgiveness for those who crucified Him. How does that example challenge the way you respond when you are treated unfairly or when someone wrongs you?
- The pastor closed with a challenge to display love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control with everyone you meet. Which of those qualities feels most out of reach for you right now, and what might it look like to intentionally pursue it this week?

Life Application

This week, identify one relationship or situation where you tend to rely on your own strength, assert your own will, or respond with impatience or frustration. Make a deliberate, daily choice to submit that specific area to God. Before you respond or act in that situation, pause and ask: 'Am I using this moment

to glorify God or to serve myself?' At the end of the week, reflect on what changed, and be ready to share what you noticed with someone you trust.

Key Takeaways

- Meekness is not weakness or self-deprecation. It is a full posture of living that recognizes God as the source of every strength and submits those strengths entirely to His will and glory.
- True humility means accepting a compliment or acknowledging a gift while pointing the credit back to God, not deflecting or denying what He has placed in you.
- Meekness does not require you to give up your power or influence, but it does require you to submit that power to God, using it only to build His kingdom and serve others rather than to dominate or advance yourself.
- Jesus is the perfect model of meekness. During His trial and crucifixion, He had every right and ability to defend or save Himself, yet He chose silence, submission to the Father's will, and forgiveness for His accusers, demonstrating that true strength is found in surrender.
- The Beatitudes are not eight random sayings but a unified portrait of one person being transformed from the inside out by God. Meekness flows naturally from recognizing our sin and genuinely mourning over it, and it produces a life that looks increasingly like Christ.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for this time together and for the picture of meekness You painted so perfectly with Your own life. We confess that we are often drawn to strength, dominance, and self-promotion, and we ask You to forgive us for the times we have used our power for our own glory rather than Yours. As we leave this place, fill us with Your Holy Spirit so that love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control would mark everything we say and do. Help us to submit our power, our words, and our daily choices to Your will, just as You submitted Yourself to the cross for us. May the people we encounter this week see not us, but You. It is in Your precious and holy name we pray. Amen.