

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” - Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the Meek

Intro 1. Today as we see the road map of the road to blessedness, Jesus says, “Blessed are the meek.” Meek. It’s not a word that we use very often. Do you think of a child who is scared to look someone in the eyes? Maybe someone who is afraid to stand up for themselves. Maybe the person who gets the wrong order at a restaurant and would never dream of sending it back. I think that for many of us when we think of meekness, we think of weakness. But today we hear Jesus saying that the meek are blessed. They will inherit the earth. Today we’ll see what biblical meekness is and that meekness comes from a focus on Christ. Meekness leads to a focus on people.

Intro 2. Pride. That’s been a hot word this weekend. Have your friend’s profile pictures on Facebook been filtered with rainbow patterns? It seems like as a country we’ve become so proud being so progressive. I’m sure some of us have wanted to respond in harshness and anger after hearing about how our country has redefined the definition of marriage. But today in God’s word, Jesus doesn’t talk about bring proud. He doesn’t tell us to respond to the world in bitterness or anger. Jesus says blessed are the meek. Blessed are the humble and gentle, for they will inherit the earth. Let’s see what it looks like to be meek - in our relationship with God, and in our relationships with others.

Meekness in our relationship with God

Biblical meekness isn’t weak. It’s actually quite strong. Meekness is being humble even when you have a reason to be proud. It’s choosing to be gentle, even when you have power. But many in our world don’t see the blessedness that comes from meekness. In fact, often even Christians lose out on the blessings that come from being meek.

Our society, loves self-esteem. It loves pride. That proud attitude rubs off on all of here too, because our sinful nature hates meekness too. We are trained to think that we deserve the best. We expect to be respected; we demand to get acknowledgement for our accomplishments. We should always be in the know, and we should be listened to. How do you feel when no one thanks you for a job well done? Slighted? Upset? Does your blood boil when your co-workers don’t take your advice or your children don’t listen the first time? Do you feel like you deserve respect? And what will you do to get it?

Meekness is supposed to be gentle and patient, but think about the interactions that you’ve had with your family this past week. Have you had a short temper or let some biting words come out of your mouth? Are there people who you work with or interact with who offend you or drive you crazy? Are you gentle when you work with them or do you find yourself getting harsh or short in you interactions with them? When meekness is replaced with a harsh biting attitude, we lose out on some of the blessings that God wants to give us in our interactions with people on earth.

But what about our relationship with God? After listening to the last 2 beatitudes, meekness should come naturally. Take a look at verses 3 and 4. We know we’re poor in spirit with nothing to offer our God. We mourn over our sinfulness. But pride still creeps in. Maybe it happens to you like it happen to Job in our Old Testament lesson. God let’s suffering come into our lives, and in pride we think that we deserve to know why God acts the way he does. How could you let this happen to me after all I’ve done for you?! Maybe you’ve felt like a young man that I met this week who has hated God for 30 years because he took his dad away from him when he was 7. Your questions of God might not be that extreme, but do you feel like you **deserve** answers from God? Like he owes you an explanation? We’ve even failed to be meek before the one whom we only have the right to stand before and bow. When we question God in pride and feel that he owes us an explanation, we find ourselves being just as harsh with him as we can be in our relationships with others. As hard as I try to always be gentle to others and always be humble in respect to God and his plans for my life, I just cannot do it all the time. There’s sin living in me and you and it’s not just a little problem. Sin is robbing us of our relationship with God.

God has every right to answer us like he answered Job, who are you to accuse your God? We don’t deserve any answers, we are the creation and he is the creator. But in pure grace and gentleness, he does give us an answer. He answers every question and every accusation and every harsh thought we could ever have. Stop looking at yourself. And stare into the dark Bethlehem night. Meek and lowly and laying in a manger lies the only answer you will ever need. *Do you care about me God? Do you want what’s best for me?* Find your answer in the face of God, wrapped in flesh. In the eyes of a tiny baby who chose to be born to peasant parents. Find your forgiveness in the smile of Christ as he lifts up the children that we are so often harsh with, and he gently blesses them. See you answer to all the questions of this world as the king of the universe rides lowly on a donkey, determined to rescue us from the prison of our pride. Christ came and Christ lived the humble life that we couldn’t produce. He trusted that God had your best interests in mind, even though it took him to the cross. He took our prideful attitudes that deserved punishment and he had them crucified. He takes our sins and gives us forgiveness. He

gives us his perfect humility. In his death and resurrection, he gives us life. Christ defeated death and opened the door to heaven. But he also gave us another blessing. He gives us the earth as an inheritance. Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.

Transition - There's no room for pride in our relationship with God. But Christ produces meekness in our lives. He gives us humility and gentleness as we interactive with people. Christian meekness is not weak, because we have the all-powerful God on our side, working out all things for our eternal good. And we don't have to wait until heaven to experience his blessings. We have forgiveness right now. We also have the earth as an inheritance. We are free to live here in peace and joy and be content knowing that he takes care of us. We also have the opportunity to find more joy in our relationships as we interact with each other in Christian meekness. Meekness comes from a focus on Christ and it leads to a focus on people.

Meekness leads to a focus on people Meekness in our relationship with others

Christian meekness takes our eyes off of ourselves and it stops us from questioning God and his plans for our lives, and he works a new question in our hearts. "How can I humbly serve the people around me?"

So how can I live my Christian life showing meekness, humility, and gentleness and receive blessing from God? Let's start with **church**. First of all - I just need to say thank you for the example of meekness that you show as members of Lord of Life. I have seen churches where meekness and gentleness is not exhibited all the time, where people fight with each other for control and push their opinions and speak harshly in council meeting, but the love and humility that I have experienced this year is overwhelming! Christ created that meekness in this church, and Christ is blessing you as a result.

God will bless Christian meekness at **home** as we interact with our family members in gentleness and humility. I'm sure you can all agree that there is more joy and peace in a home where people are actively trying to serve each other and look out for the interests of each other instead of saying, "It's all about me!" Children are blessed and so are parents when parents discipline in gentleness and love instead of bitterness and anger. Families are blessed when members offer and give the forgiveness that Christ has already shared with them.

The blessings of meekness that focuses on others also extends to the **workplace**. Isn't it a blessing to work for an employer who treats their employees with gentleness and respect? Isn't the office more peaceful when everyone isn't fighting for position and undermining each other to get ahead? Work is about serving others in love as we serve Christ. When you know that Christ has placed in the world to serve him in everything you do, it can even be joyful to get out of bed on a Monday morning.

Christian meekness is blessed in our **communities** too. When we understand first of all how we have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, it's easier to speak with gentleness and respect to others who need to hear about forgiveness in Christ. The goal of our interactions is always to get back to Jesus. Who would you rather have a conversation with at the grocery store, someone who seems proud, arrogant, and abrasive, or someone who is mild, gentle, and friendly? Meekness in the community leads to opportunities to share the gospel. Isn't it a blessing that through the simple conversations that we have about Christ, the Holy Spirit plants faith and blesses people with an eternal inheritance in heaven?

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." God blesses us not only on this present earth, but there is an eternal aspect here too. Someday soon Christ will come again to gather his people and this present earth will be destroyed and changed. The one who laid the earth's foundation, the one who created the seas and calmed the storms, is also the one who says, "Look I am making everything new!" "I have prepared a place for you." You are the heir of an eternal inheritance that has been stored up for you since the creation of the world. The new heaven and the new earth where we will live in joy and blessedness with God forever. Blessed are the meek - and that's you! You will inherit the earth.

Amen