

Christ's Beatitudes

The Blessed Meek

What is meekness?

It is not weakness. They are not simply weak, feeble, push-overs. The Lord Jesus says of Himself that He is meek and lowly in heart, and He was no weakling, but One with great strength and inflexible principles (Jn 2:13-21; Matt. 23). Neither is it just niceness, as if they are just pleasant and agreeable people. Lloyd Jones: "that is something purely biological, the kind of thing you get in animals. One dog is nicer than another, one cat is nicer than another. That is not meekness."

Meekness means submissiveness toward God. It means listening when He speaks and submitting when He acts. The unbeliever does not want to submit to God's word. But the believer is to receive with meekness the engrafted word (Jam. 1:21; Lk 1:38). When God acts, we submit (Job 1:21; Gen. 22), assured that He is working all things for the good of those that love him (Rom. 8:28). Illustration of George Müller.

Meekness means being humble and gentle toward others. A.W. Pink: "It is the opposite of ill-will toward men." Illustrations: David (2 Sam. 16:11), Moses (Num. 12:3), of whom Matthew Henry says: "he was as bold as a lion in the cause of God, but as mild as a lamb in his own." Lloyd-Jones: "to be truly meek means that we no longer protect ourselves, because we see there is nothing worth defending." **Meekness refuses to retaliate** (Col. 3:12). **Meekness bears patiently with the unfaithfulness of friends** (2 Tim. 4:16). **Meekness deals gently with the lost** (2 Tim. 2:23-25). **Meekness deals gently with the failures of others** (Gal. 6:1).

What happens to the meek?

- 1) **They are given contentment** (Ps. 37). Trying to get our way, pushing people over in the process does not give us happiness. Anger, resentment does not do us any good. It takes away our peace; it makes us miserable. Self-pity – how destructive that is to our souls! But the meek are content (Prov. 15:16). "The Christian believer may not possess much real estate, or have a great deal of this world's goods, but as he grows in meekness he will increasingly find more satisfaction in his pittance than the sinner in his plenty." A.W. Pink: "the humble Christian is far happier in the cottage than the wicked in a palace."
- 2) **They will receive a country.** "They shall inherit the earth." This is what the Lord promised Abraham that he and his seed would inherit the land (Gen. 13:15), the land flowing with milk and honey, pointing to the new heaven and the new earth (Heb. 11:13-16). Isaac Watts:

*How vast the treasures we possess!
How rich thy bounty, King of grace!
This world is ours, and worlds to come;
Earth is our lodge, and heaven our home.*

From whom must we learn meekness?

For all that can be said of Abraham, Moses, Job, David, Stephen and others, the supreme example of meekness is found in Jesus Himself. It is basically the only personal quality to which He Himself drew specific attention (Matt. 11:28; 21:5), and therefore must have special significance. After all, He humbled Himself (Phil. 2:6-8). Throughout His earthly life He was submissive to His Father (Matt. 26:39). When challenged, accused He quietly spoke. When mocked, stripped, flogged, spat upon and led to die, there was no word of protest, no posture of defiance (Is. 53:7-8; 1 Pet. 2:23). A.W. Pink calls the Lord Jesus: "the very King of meekness." He says: "learn of me!" Augustine: Jesus did not ask us to learn how to perform miracles, open the eyes of the blind, or raise the dead, but he did tell us to learn to be meek." This will only come through the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), who comes to indwell and tame His people (Jam. 3:8). What does the Lord use to grant this spirit of meekness? A view of Himself and a view of ourselves. Remember who you are and that God has a purpose with all your disappointments and trials that you suffer. Trust God and leave it with Him. John Hus (1415): "God looks kindly upon us and endows us with wondrous gifts: a narrow prison, hard bed, plain food, cruel boards, toothache, vomiting and fever." "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."