

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Quoting Psalm 37:11, Jesus teaches that in contrast to the wicked the meek are blessed because in the end they will possess the entire earth; and in the mean time they possess themselves on it with peace.

Lk. 2:13-14.

Sermon Point: *The Meek Have Peace on Earth*

Move 1: *First, recognize that meekness is not weakness.*

Moses: meekest (Num. 12:3). So Jesus (Mt. 11:29; 21:5). Yet sharply dealt w/ irreverence. Yet grave, controlled. Seeks God's honor above all. Can seek personal vindication, not vengeance. *Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.* (Eph. 4:26-27) *Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.* (Rom 12:21). Further, per 1 Pet 2:14/Rom. 12:7, magistrates must get involved: "Too much lenity in a magistrate is not meekness but injustice." (T. Watson)

Move 2: *Meekness involves mild moderation, which takes strength.*

"Meek": humble/considerate/lowly/gentle (2 Cor. 10:1). 1 Pet. 3:4: *But let [your adorning] be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.* M. Henry, *Quest for Meekness and Quietness of Spirit*: "Easiness of spirit and evenness of soul." Not easily provoked (1 Cor. 13:5); easily entreated (James 3:17). Teachable: *The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.* (Psa 25:9; see James 1:21). Titus 3:1-2) There is a reason this command is given to Christ's Church: Eph. 4:1-3. Don't let storm brew in your heart when it's sunny outside.

Move 3: *Your reward for meekness is everything on earth, for which the wicked are too weak to wait.*

Typology of Canaan should be understood behind "shall inherit the earth": Ps. 37:8-11a: in contrast to the wicked that won't last, only the meek will be left to live here. Emphasis is the contrast: vss. 35-36 with vss. 22, 29, 34. Ps. 147:6: *The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.* 149:4: *For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.* Ps. 104 ends: Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD. (vs. 35). *He that overcometh shall inherit all things...* (Rev. 21:7). You overcome in Christ: Rom. 8:16-18. Rejoice 1 Pet. 1:3-4. Don't fret over the wicked enjoying this world, for it is fading away. Instead, wait on the Lord w/ confidence ... *knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.* (Heb. 10:34) Jesus planted its seed in you: *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek;* (Isa. 61:1) As you don't take,

but receive, the Holy Spirit gives you meekness (Gal. 5:23) and peace (vs. 22).

Move 4: Your meekness allows you to enjoy yourself on the earth now and into the future.

Ps 37:11b: enjoy a peaceful time. Peace: “shalom”: wholeness, state of wellness. “enjoy themselves”: the wicked cannot enjoy anything with peace. The meek do, for they will “inherit” it all: possess. Are not possessed by their possessions. Because of vs. 4, 16. *The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.* (Ps. 22:26) The meek get all of heaven and earth because they desire its Creator and Redeemer. They have peace on earth by serving the Prince of Peace. The world will lose the whole earth; and presently forfeits felicity because it forsakes Christ: Jn. 14:27: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you ...* Isa. 26:3: *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.;* versus 48:22: *There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.*

Conclusion:

M. Henry’s *Quest for Meekness and Quietness of Spirit*: final applications:

- Lament the lack of it (Ps. 73:22; Mt. 5:4). Labor and endeavor to attain it (seek it, put it on, follow it, show it, study it: Zeph. 2:3; James 1:5, Titus 3:2; Phil. 4:5; 1 Thess. 4:11).
- Be aware: it is not natural, but a spiritual grace. We will all fail. Be especially aware of when you need it: *When giving reproof* (Gal. 6:1). *When receiving reproof* (Prov. 27:6; Ps. 141:5). *When instructing gainsayers* (2 Tim. 2:24, 25). *When witnessing* (1 Pet. 3:15). *When bearing reproach* (1 Pet. 3:9; Ps. 37:7, 8).
- Rules of Direction: *Sit loose to the world and everything in it. Be often repenting of your sinful passion and renew your covenants against it. Keep out of the way of provocation. Learn to pause. Pray to God by His spirit to work in you. Be often examining your growth and proficiency in this grace and use trials to test and train you. Delight in the company of meek. Study the cross of our Lord Jesus* (2 Cor. 4:10). *Converse much in your thoughts with the dark and silent grave* (Ps. 34:3,4).

The Meek Have Peace on Earth.