



Blessed Are The Meek

For They Shall Inherit the Earth

The Beatitudes: Session 4

J. B. Phillips

- Most people think:
- "Happy are they who complain: for they get their own way in the end"
- But Jesus said:
- "Happy are those who accept life and their own limitations: they will find more in life than anyone."

Blessed Are the Meek

- Gentle Jesus meek and mild
- Look upon a little child
- Pity my simplicity
- Teach me, Lord, to come to Thee
 - ---Charles Wesley

Meekness

- God has two dwellings, one in heaven and the other in a meek and thankful heart.
—Walton
- **THE RENEWAL** of the earth begins at Golgotha, where the meek one died, and from thence it will spread. When the kingdom finally comes, the meek shall possess the earth.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

The Problem We Have with Meek

- It rhymes with "weak"



Definition of Meek

- Too submissive
- Easily imposed on
- Spineless
- Spiritless
- Why would Jesus bless "The Meek?"

Who Was Meek in Scripture?

- Moses
- "Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all men that were on the face of the earth." (Numbers 12:3)
- Jesus
- "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek (gentle) and humble of heart" (Matthew 11: 29)

If Moses was Meek . . .

- And Jesus was Meek . . .
- That is not spineless, spiritless, and weak
- Jesus did not say: "Blessed are the deficient in courage"
- He did not say: "Blessed are the wimpy"

Greek Word: “Praus”

- “A wild animal that has been tamed and made gentle”
- Aristotle saw meekness as “the virtue that lies between opposing views of anger: cold cruelty, on the one hand, and burning wrath, on the other.”
- “Pertaining to not being overly impressed by a sense of one’s self-importance”

A Meek Person

- A meek person is one who tames the savage beast within us.
- Being able to tame this beast goes against every fiber of our human ego and socialized behavior.
- Cultivating humility and patience is just as difficult ---Kerry Walters

Henri Nouwen

- *“My whole life I have been complaining that my **work** was constantly interrupted, until I discovered the interruptions were my **work**.”*
- *My biggest problem is that I want to be in control*
- *Of my time, my schedule, my activities, my life*

Not Overly Impressed by a Sense of One's Self-Importance





Psalm 37 Connection

- Psalm 37: 11 "But the meek shall possess the land, and delight themselves in abundant prosperity."
- Look at verse 9
- "Those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land"
- If we look at verses 5-8, we get a picture of what it means to wait for the Lord

Psalm 37: 5-8

- Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil

Lessons

- They trust in God
- They commit their way to God
- The Hebrew word for commit literally means "to Roll"

Rolling To The Lord

- Meek people have discovered that God is trustworthy, and so they roll their "way"—their business, their problems, their relationships, their health, their fears, their frustrations—they roll all this onto the Lord. They admit that they are insufficient to cope with the complexities and pressures and obstacles of life, and they trust that God is able and willing to sustain them and guide them and protect them.

Lessons from Psalm 37

- They are quiet before God and wait for Him. (verse 7)
- Meek people have a quiet steadiness about their lives in the midst of upheaval.
- They don't fret over the wicked
- "Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil." (verse 8)

Dr. Long

- “Meekness is not timidity or passivity, but rather a patient trusting that God will act in due time
- An insistence on being nonviolent even in the midst of a violent society
- A contentment with the basic necessities of life even in a possession-hungry world
- And taking delight in the gifts of God and the many comforts of faith

Mary

- Here I am, the servant of the Lord: Let it be to me according to your word."



The Color Blue for Mary

- It reflects calm and tranquility
- Physiologists say blue reflects a passive spirit, allowing others to perform an action and a looking inward
- Meekness



Jesus

- His first miracle was done reluctantly—only in submission to his mother's appeal
- Most of the healing miracles are in response to people coming to Jesus, not the other way around
- Messianic entry into Jerusalem was on the back of a borrowed donkey

Jesus

- In the Upper Room he provides the disciples the greatest example of humility as he washes his disciples' feet
- Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, he pleads "If possible, let this cup pass from me, but, not my will but Thine be done"
- He bears his own cross
- He prays that God will forgive his executioners

Jesus

- Trusted in God
- Committed his way to God
- "Rolled" with God
- Believing that God was in control
- That God is good
- And that God is always working his purposes out, even when we cannot see it

Shall Inherit the Earth

Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

--Ancient Indian Proverb

Land Ownership?

- "What is this you call property? It cannot be the earth, for the land is our mother, nourishing all her children, beasts, birds, fish and all men. The woods, the streams, everything on it belongs to everybody and is for the use of all. How can one man say it belongs only to him?" –Chief Massasoit

The Promised Land

- Jesus never owned land
- Is this a promise for "land ownership" or something more?
- Place to live in peace, to provide for our needs, and to experience shalom

December 1, 1955



Rosa Parks

- I was too tired to stand

January 30, 1956



King's Response

- King walked out onto the front porch. Holding up his hand for silence, he tried to still the anger by speaking with an exaggerated peacefulness in his voice. Everything was all right, he said. 'Don't get panicky. Don't do anything panicky

King's Response

- Don't get your weapons. If you have weapons, take them home. He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword. Remember that is what Jesus said. We are not advocating violence. We want to love our enemies. I want you to love our enemies. Be good to them. This is what we must live by. We must meet hate with love.

The Crowd Silent & King Continued

- I did not start this boycott. I was asked by you to serve as your spokesman. I want it to be known the length and breadth of this land that if I am stopped, this movement will not stop. If I am stopped, our work will not stop. For what we are doing is right. What we are doing is just. And God is with us.

For They Shall Inherit the Earth



Inherit the Earth



I Was Too Tired to Stand Up



Next Week

- October 27/28
- Back in the Fellowship Hall
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied