

# Blessed are the Meek

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study  
Matthew 5:5

Saving faith is more than an intellectual pursuit; it is the gift of God (Eph 2:8-9). When bestowed upon us, saving faith transforms our hearts, minds, emotions, and actions. Likewise, belief (intellectually) is not life-changing or transformational (James 2:14-26). By the transformation of the Spirit, we can live out the Beatitudes in our lives.

**Isaiah 61:1–2**, *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;*

## I. What is Meekness?

- A. What do the dictionaries and translators say about the word “meek?”
  1. Some translations say gentle or humble. Still others, mild or soft
  2. Some dictionaries say, “*deficient in spirit and courage.*” That’s not what the Greek word means.
- B. What Meekness is not:
  1. It is not cowardice. Think of the martyrs (John Rogers - Feb 4, 1555)
  2. It is not a passive acceptance of one’s sinfulness.
  3. It is not weakness, laziness, softness, or inaction.
- C. “Meek” must be seen in the context of the first two beatitudes. (spiritual poverty and mourning)
  1. Matt 5:3, “*Blessed are the poor in spirit. . .*”
    - a) This is not only the awareness but the admission of our personal sinful condition.
    - b) “*Poor in spirit*” is to realize our own inability to change our condition through any action.
    - c) “*Poor in spirit*” is to realize we will face God.
    - d) “*Poor in spirit*” is to be truly helpless spiritually.
  2. Matt 5:4, “*Blessed are those who mourn. . .*”
    - a) Mournful is being saddened over our sinful condition.
    - b) We mourn in recognition of our standing before a holy God.
    - c) We mourn our inability to rectify our own sinfulness.
    - d) One poor in spirit cries out, “*O, wretched man that I am,*” in realization of his abject poverty.
- D. “*Praus*” – “meekness” other uses
  1. Describes a soothing medicine.
  2. Describes a gentle breeze.
  3. Farmers used the word to describe a colt that had been broken and was now tame and docile.
    - a) It is power under control.
    - b) It is a person who has yielded control to another.
    - c) It can be said that submission to God is meekness.
- E. Pictured in the Psalms (Psalm 37:1-11) The Attitudes of the Meek:
  1. Psa 37:3, Trust in the Lord
  2. Psa 37:4, Delight in the Lord
  3. Psa 37:5, Commit your way to the Lord
  4. Psa 37:7, Rest in the Lord
  5. Psa 37:8, Fret not
  6. Psa 37:9, Wait for the Lord
    - a) **Hebrews 10:34**, *For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.*
    - b) Meekness is a willingness to give up everything in this world, knowing God has a better plan.
    - c) This is a person who has died to self.
    - d) Meekness is not natural (personality trait) but a gift from God.

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## II. Practical Examples of Meekness

- A. **Abraham - Genesis 13:7–8**, *And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land. 8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. **Genesis 13:9**, Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."*
- B. **Joseph – Genesis 45:4–5**, *So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **Genesis 50:20**, As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. **Psalm 105:16–17**, When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, 17 he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.*
- C. **Moses –Numbers 12:3**, *Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.*
  - 1. **Exodus 3:9–11**, *And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*
  - 2. **Philippians 3:3**, *"who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh"*
  - 3. **Philippians 4:13**, *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*
- D. **David – 1 Samuel 24:12**, *May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you.*
- E. **Uzziah** – the opposite of meekness (2 Chronicles 26)

## III. What Does it mean to "inherit the earth."

- A. Israel had been promised the land from Gen 13.
- B. Inherit – *klēronomeō* – To receive that which is apportioned or allotted to you.
- C. If you want an "allotted" place in the kingdom of the Lord, you get it when you come to the Lord impoverished, broken, saddened, mourning, and meek in the realization of your sinfulness, spiritual bankruptcy, grieving over it, and in dependence on God for everything.
  - 1. **Psalm 149:4**, *For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.*
  - 2. **James 4:6**, *But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*
  - 3. **1 Peter 3:4**, *But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.*

## IV. How Can I Know if I am Meek?

- A. Do I respond humbly and obediently to the Word of God?
- B. Am I angrier when God is dishonored or when I am dishonored?
- C. Do I act like I can sin and get away with it?
- D. Am I more concerned about God's purposes being fulfilled or my own purposes?
- E. Do I always seek to make peace?
- F. Am I more concerned about others or myself?
- G. Do I receive criticism well and love those who give it?

***"Meekness, in a word, is to be finished with myself for good."***

- John MacArthur