

40-05-06.wpd --Blessed Are the Meek  
 humility, acceptance, forgiveness, meekness, gentleness  
 Mat 5:5  
 If we rest in God, God will take care of the rest.

### INTRODUCTION:

--Mat 5:5, *Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.* Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount by calling certain people "*blessed*" or *happy* when everyone else would normally call them *unhappy*. "*Blessed are the poor*" ... "*blessed are they that mourn*... (and in today's beatitude) "*blessed are the meek*." These first three beatitudes are closely tied together. Because the *poor* are without resources, they are oppressed, and because oppressed, they *mourn*, and because, in their poverty and mourning, they must rely on God's help alone, they take on a *meek* attitude. Meekness says, "I will rest in God, and God will take care of the rest." God calls *meek* people *blessed*. He plans to populate His "new heaven" and new earth with those kind of people. So we need to know how to be *meek*.

### I. What Does "Meekness" Mean?

A. The best way to understand meekness is in Biblical examples:

1. Meekness of Moses-- [Num 12:1-10 (ESV) tells the story of Miriam and Aaron speaking out against Moses for marrying black woman. In **v.3** it says, "Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth." Moses remained silent. It was not the first time he refused to defend himself against personal attack, but he waited on God, and when God showed up, God justified Moses and rebuked Aaron and Miriam instead.] (Meekness, rather than retaliating or contending for itself, trusts in God's vindication, when facing unjust injury.)
2. Meekness in Jesus-- Mat 11:29, Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
  - a. Who wants a yoke? [Only beasts of burden bear yokes. When the word is used in speaking of humans, it always signifies *oppression*.]
    - (1) By incarnation, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Member of the Trinity became a Son to God the Father, and therefore, forever subject to God.
    - (2) God the Son knows for eternity what submission to the will of God means, which is what meekness really means.
    - (3) Jesus tell us, if we want *rest for our souls*, we need to bear His yoke of *meekness*, if we are to be *blessed*.
  - b. The yoke Jesus bore was His persecution and His crucifixion.

Like Moses, He did not retaliate when attacked, but He did contend for justice itself-- (when slapped unjustly by an official at His trial, He said in John 18:23, "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?" (*Meekness is not weakness*. Jesus was anything but weak as He silently endured the Cross, but He forever opened His mouth for truth, as when He spoke the truth to Pilate in John 19:11, Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

TRANS: Humble, gentle *meekness* sees what the *powerful proud* do not see... that God is ultimately in control of every situation. Personal wrongs that some do and others endure happen only under permission by God. The *meek* submit to His will, as Jesus did. He knew that God would vindicate Him by resurrection. On the day of our resurrection, we too will be vindicated any injustices done to us. "Happy" are we, if we face those wrongs now with meekness. There is a *rest* for our souls now, **if we rest our case with God, allowing God to handle the rest.**

### II. How Do We Practice of Meekness?

A. We must have a meek attitude first toward God:

1. A receptivity toward God's revelation (Many are brought up to believe a variety of ideas that differ from what God reveals in the Bible. Meekness is the willingness to have such ideas changed.)
2. A careful and sincere obedience to His commands [to *obey* (Gk) = "to listen attentively"] ("*What is God trying to teach through this command? What can I learn about Him from obeying it?*")
3. A willing submission to the wisdom of His will [Father Knows Best" was a TV series. Each week's plot usually ended up showing what seemed reasonable to the kids was wrong and the wisdom of the dad in the story was right.] (In real life, the Father **does** know best, and the *meek* person never has to learn this the hard way.)
4. A patient acceptance of even the worst adversity with a faith that God is at work in what's happening [When Catholic priest Hermann Lange was facing execution by the Nazis, he wrote from his prison cell on July 11, 1943: "*Personally, I am perfectly calm, facing steadfastly what is to come. When one has really achieved complete surrender to the will of God, there is a marvelous feeling of peace and sense of absolute security. The gift we receive is so unimaginably great that all human joys pale beside it.*" ]

B. Once submitted meekly to God, we can be *meek* with men (not just bearing injuries patiently and forgiving those who commit them, but doing good, not evil, in return-- Mat 5:43-44 (NKJV), "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...

**TRANS:** A truly *meek* attitude will result in *meek* behavior. And there is a blessing in it. **If we rest in God, God will take care of the rest.**

### III. What Is the Reward of Meekness?

- A. The rest we find under Jesus's yoke of meekness brings a *present peace, a rest for our souls, in the here and now*. (Those without meekness, who are easily ruffled and riled by the aggravations that abound in life, are constantly upset and have no peace. They are always at the mercy of others who choose to disturb them.)
- B. But there is a future blessedness of the meek, as well, for they will "*inherit the earth*" that is to be renewed at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ-- 2 Pet 3:13. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

### **CONCLUSION:**

-- Those who are not at rest in God now, will not be at home in the coming Kingdom of God. *Meekness prepares us for the coming heavenly kingdom on earth*, because it acknowledges right now, today, that the King is already in control of things. Jesus said in Mark 8:36, What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? How happy, how blessed are the meek, for they keep their souls in peace now, and in the end, inherit everything else, too.