



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
THE SERMON ON THE
MOUNT 3

The Meek

- *Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth. (5:5)*
- Meek (*praeis*)- πραεῖς
- What does it mean to be meek?
- What does inherit the earth mean?
- What does conventional wisdom say about who might “inherit the earth”?
- So, how would hearing this for the first time sound?

Being Meek

- Meekness is not, as many people imagine, a weakness. It must not be confused with being wishy-washy. A meek person is not necessarily indecisive or timid. He is not so unsure of himself that he could be pushed over by a hard slap from a wet noodle.
- Still less is meekness to be confused with mere affability. Some people are just naturally nice and easy-going; but then again, so are some dogs. Meekness goes much deeper.
- Meekness is a controlled desire to see the other's interests advance ahead of one's own.
- What do you think?

(Carson, Jesus Sermon on the Mount and his confrontation with world, 24)

Being Meek

- The man who is truly meek is the one who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do. . . . Finally, I would put it like this. We are to leave everything—ourselves, our rights, our cause, our whole future—in the hands of God, and especially so if we feel we are suffering unjustly.
- How do I typically respond to unjust treatment?

(D. Martin Lloyd Jones, Studies in the Sermon on the Mount, 2 vols. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1959–60), 1:69–70.)

Meekness in the Bible

- And the meek shall inherit the earth! These words, cited from Psalm 37:11, constitute a devastating contradiction to the philosophical materialism so prevalent in our own day.
- But this blessing of inheritance is true in at least two ways. First, only the genuine meek man will be content; his ego is not so inflated that he thinks he must always have more.
- Besides, in Christ he already sees himself “possessing everything” (2 Cor. 6:10; cf. 1 Cor. 3:21–23).
- **(2 Cor 6:10)** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.



Psalm 37

- **1** Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong;
2 for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.
- **7** Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- **8** Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.
9 For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.
- little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.
11 *But the meek will inherit the land* and enjoy peace and prosperity.

What do we learn about meekness from the Psalm?

What Jesus is promising

- *Jesus blesses those who are meek or gentle. Without Jesus people are not at peace and operate out of fear or anger or from some other reason. With Jesus they have power to become gentle and inherit the earth. (Giles)*

In your own words

**Blessed are the meek for they will
inherit the earth.**

How would you say it in your own words?



Reflection

- Do I even like this idea of “meekness”
- Are there areas in my life where I need to learn meekness?
- What does that look like for me?
- What sort of situations do I find it hard to be meek in?
- What can I start doing to be blessed in my response?

The Meek - Conclusion

- Cultivating a heart attitude of the acceptance that God's way is meekness. Not taking things by force. Non-retaliatory, even in our heart.
- Developing a trust in what Jesus is saying, and that God values meekness as a character trait and heart response from his people.
- God's blessing: In the end you gain everything.

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