

**11.8.20**  
**Meekness – Controlled Strength**  
**Matthew 5:5**

Just a short teaching this morning from our teaching in Matthew. Today we find ourselves in **Matthew 5:5**, “**Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**”

As I study scripture I never ceased to be amazed at how well God puts things together. Just in the right order, the right sequence that as you study it fits perfectly. Like our passage today, blessed are the meek.

As a stand alone verse this has a lot of great kingdom value but as we look at this passage in context, it is the perfect flow of thought from the mouth of Jesus.

The first part of Jesus’ sermon started out with blessed are the poor in spirit. We see what our need is. We see in light of God’s holiness and His requirement of our holiness, we are lacking. We are poor spiritually and poor in our ability to connect with Him in a saving way. That is why He sent His Son Jesus. To make up for what we are lacking in every way.

When we see our own sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world we pass into the next teaching of Jesus. We mourn. We mourn over our struggle with sin and the sin of the world as well as how the sin of the world captures and enslaves so many people.

Of course, as we know and have learned, these are blessed positions we have come to. The realities of heaven become our reality. We experience God working in our lives to comfort us and to help us in understanding of Jesus’ teachings that will unlock heavenly blessings in our lives.

As I have said over the last couple of weeks, the teachings of Jesus are the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

One of the things we don't hear much about today is Christian virtues. Virtue is defined as behavior that shows a high moral standard.

Christian virtues are the behavioral attitudes of Christ we develop as we strive to become more like Him. This is what meekness is.

When most people think of someone who is meek I wonder if they think of someone who is shy, quiet and even a person who will let other people walk all over them.

I think I remember a statement that said a meek as a church mouse. When we think of mice, most are quick to run away if any sign of trouble appears. A light comes on, they hear a noise or see a person then they are scurrying for cover. But this kind of meek isn't really what Jesus is speaking about here.

The Greek word for meek is praus. Praus was used when speaking about broke horses, specifically war horses.

War horses were broken and bred for battle and their senses were highly trained. They were powerful but yet under the hand of their master it was a controlled power.

If you have ever been around horses you know they could plow you down if they wanted to. They are big and strong and what they can do is amazing. They are not necessarily to be feared but certainly respected. A good horse though is gentle and a servant of his master. He will put all of his strength to the task given him when asked. This is what Jesus is talking about. Gentle strength.

This is what I believe Jesus is talking about when He says meek. Controlled power or strength. Meekness is not weakness but it strength that is controlled.

As applied as Jesus is teaching I believe it means yes, we can plow over someone. If they are wrong in their thoughts, wrong in their actions we use our strength to plow right over them.

If we want to be honest we all have exhibited unbridled strength in our relationships with others. I think we all could say that we have overreacted to things in our lives and, like a horse could, we have used our strength to run right over someone. They did something we did not like or agree with and we let them know.

But letting our emotions get the best of us never ends well does it. Jesus says those who are meek, those who learn to control their emotions, their inward strength, the world is out in front of them, they will inherit the earth.

This is one the virtues Jesus hopes we will enter into. Keeping our emotions in check. That is not the case for the world today is it? In fact it is quite the opposite. There is n bridle, no check of what people say and do. But we know and have seen that all that loss of emotions just creates more bad emotions doesn't it?

Obviously out of control emotions have been a problem for humanity from the beginning. Cain gets upset with his brother and in the heat of the moment lets his emotions fly and he kills Able. Right from the start, letting emotions get the best of a person has been a problem.

King Solomon, the son of David, who was know far and wide as the wisest person who ever lived, he said the following.

**Proverbs 15:1, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”**

**Turn with me to James chapter 3. Read the whole passage with me.**

The last part of this passage is the key Jesus gives us that will unlock heavenly blessings into our lives.

Look at verse 17. **“But wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruits is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”**

Wisdom from above. Wisdom from heaven. Following the teachings of Jesus. Spending time with Him in His word, in prayer and having Him constantly at the forefront of our minds in everything we do or say.

This world we are living in today would have you shout from the mountain tops your opinion on everything. It would have you post and repost all kinds of things that are not pure, peaceful or full of mercy.

Does this mean we never get upset? Does it mean we have to stuff everything down and forget it? No. Sometimes there needs to be a response to others and the situations that cause us to boil over. Sometimes there are big issues like abortion that need our attention. But attacking someone or chopping someone’s head off when they upset us always makes it worse.

Meekness is the strength to remain calm and not react when someone wrongs you. Meekness is love and faith operating at a high level. It is spending time with Jesus before you respond. It is recognizing that you are not meek in and of yourself so you need help in handling whatever person, whatever situation confronts you.

This is one of the great keys that open heavenly blessings and power.

Look at this next passage.

**2 Corinthians 10:4, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.”**

Divine power does not come from us but it can flow through us when we unlock the power with the key of love and meekness.

Peter, the apostle wrote, **1 Peter 4:8, “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”**

In Paul’s famous love chapter he said that love is the greatest of all the spiritual gifts.

Let me take you into another one of Jesus’ teachings in Luke.

As followers of Jesus we desperately need to hear in this in light of the heightened political days we live in.

Luke 6 beginning in verse 27.

This is Luke’s version of the first part of Jesus’s sermon on the mount.

Luke 6:27-36.

Pretty much says it all doesn’t it?

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Let them hit you, take your coat, treat them the way they want you would want to be treated.

Doing all these things, your reward, your blessings from heaven will be great. Of course we know we cannot do these things in our own power. But when we stop, pray for God’s love to pour in and through us then His power is unlocked from heaven and we begin to see Him at work in people and in our circumstances, doing things only He can do.

This is meekness. Meekness is God's love operating at a high level. And not just love for other people but love for God. Do we love God and believe in His love for us that will take care of us even when people don't seem to care how they treat us?

God help us in these days to be the beacon of love, hope and faith in God.

Let us pray