

072124 Meeker Christian Church Beatitudes #3

5 *And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:*

3 #1 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

4 #2 *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.*

5 #3 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth* is today’s beatitude character attitude, third in the series.

Without meekness, a person cannot learn because an early step to learning is the realization of our own ignorance and sincere passion for knowledge. -- Quintilian, the great Roman teacher of oratory, said of certain of his scholars, "They would no doubt be excellent students, if they were not already convinced of their own knowledge." With that quote we open **Matthew 5:5** *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

Would you all think of someone you consider a meek person --- take a moment and thank God for their meekness and its impact on your life... Now, let the Holy Spirit comfort you in identifying in what ways you share their meek attribute. .. And finally be alert as the Holy Spirit helps you in beatitude character attitude adjustments that will encourage, enrich, and delightfully fill your life of serving our Heavenly Father.

Getting specific: *Blessed are the meek.* The Hebrew “berakah” used here seems to transmit the idea that the person who works on developing the attitude of meekness is blessed and commended for their determination to acquire that character attitude. It also implies that the meek person becomes an ever increasing blessing to fellow Christians and others in their circle of life.

Meekness is definitely a two way street – receive blessings, and then sharing them with others. Meekness is an attitude that ascends above the attitudes of this fallen, corrupt, satan infused world that insists on self as the highest focal point of life resulting in each person becoming their own god whom they desire, devise and ultimately demand appropriate homage to their earthy nature and passions. Let me show you something from the **NIV in Colossians 3:5** *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.* Paul speak directly of the self god image attitude I described. That “earthly nature” is the aptitude for sin resulting from the original sin in the garden. The more clearly you get that “earthly nature” defined in your mind, the better defense you have against satan’s tricks to try and make you feel okay with yourself and the world. In fact,

“earthly nature” not only makes you feel just okay - but earthly nature causes you to feel that you are a bit better, and for sure more important than anybody else. That is the satan torpedo that has sunk most marriages and other long term relationships.

Here is that same passage of **Colossians 3:5 NKJV** *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.* - “your members” has the same meaning and outcome as “earthly nature.”

This self god image is so powerful around us, everyone of us at times become confused: I heard the testimony this week of a person whose workmate is a professed, church attending Christian. While working the other persons language is infused with a variety of swear words. And then they asked our friend if he will pray with him about the problems of others???? Whether verbalized, or just lived out in practice that universal attitude is: My god doesn't mind if swear a little, my god made me this way and so I can do what I want - that makes me okay.” The only problem, that god is self imaged, a god they have made – not the Righteous Heavenly Father of Creation God of the Bible. Which attitude violates every part of 5 #3 Blessed are the meek, we Christians all get to learn and develop that character attitude starting by learning the word of God way before we can speak or read. God's word is meant and provides for our peace and comfort on earth and inheritance in heaven. To rob a child of that atmosphere is an attitude of a self manufactured god!

The Bible heroes have given it to us in black and white: **1 Samuel 2:3** *Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed.* Specific indicators for having not learned the character attitude of meekness are arrogant speech and actions. Paul reinforces Samuel in **Romans 12:3** *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.* /// Do not think, talk, and act haughty or proud, but as a Christian make time and deliberate study in the revelation of scripture to reveal God's plan in your life and actions. That revelation comes and matures as faith grows.

James 4:16 *But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*/// James the Lord's brother lets us know all boasting is evil, evil is sin, sin inhibits the growth of

faith, faith determines, kingdom service, kingdom service results in fullness of life, and confidence in heaven's home.

Meekness is NOT going around like a whipped dog licking the boots of anyone giving attention. Meekness is not self-doubt putting down, criticizing, depreciating oneself. Here is what meekness looks like and is to be developed and modeled in the Christians life:

Matthew 11:29 *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

Matthew 21:5 *"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.' "*

A meek person is one who humbly acknowledges their dependence on the goodness and grace of GOD and betray no arrogance toward their fellowman. One author suggested the term meek was used by the Greeks to describe a horse that had been broken. It refers to power under control... Therefore a meek person understands who he is, whose he is, and the gifts embodied in their earthly body, soul, and spirit. They relate with others to maximize their personal potential for the purpose and glory of the Heavenly Father. /// That is the power of spiritual electricity flowing through us. Power under control reminds me of a well matched, well trained team of horses; to see those mighty Belgians, Clydesdales, Perchons, mules, or other draft horse teams pulling together is a work of art, a thing of beauty, and pure magnificence seldom duplicated in this world. I well remember jack and dewey, pat and mike, major and bell, maud and molly, jack and colie who did the haying and a little farming in the summer and pulled the sled to feed in the winter. That is power under control for the benefit of others. That is meekness in action. In a manner of speaking that power through meekness is simply the life blood and purpose of the life of a believer.

I pause for a moment at this juncture that impacts meekness in Meeker Christian Church ministry. Jean says I need to visit in your homes more. I am willing, but do not drop in unannounced not knowing your business of the hour. I use bulletin announcements, the Monday note, phone calls, hospital and care center calls and email and text messaging to try and keep up. So please know this I, am always willing to do home calls, hospital calls, visitation with you, or any other helps of which I am capable. Just call or contact me and I will come ASAP. Many of you already have experienced that, others have perhaps been too meek to call. Let's clear the air, I am ready, willing and able, but I need your help.

Now back on subject: In our language these are some words that help us to visualize meekness: Humility, modesty, shyness, timidity, reserved, cautious, unpretentious, politeness, quietness, reservedness. They are all indicators of meekness.

Here is some further scripture support:

James 3:13 *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.* As is often the case in Bible study, if you go a little further, you will find a further explanation or answer. What is *meekness of wisdom*?? **James 3:17-18** *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Let me make a point here...you may question the effectiveness of your life at times. But never base that evaluation solely on so called earthly success or the motivation of the American Dream. My Dad whom I told you about last week, never preached a sermon, but his beatitude #2 *Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.* His testimony has penetrated all over the world through his family and friends being a testimony to his life.. God will and is doing the same thing with you as a product of your beatitudes character attitudes.

We Christians thrive of Biblical examples of viable character attributes we are studying. I reference for you **Isaiah 53 as a reference.** That is Isaiah's prophetic description of the image of perfection of meekness. It was given to him 750 years before Jesus, and describes our Lord in specific detail. A great meditation piece.

Isaiah 53
*53 Who has believed our report?
 And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
 2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
 And as a root out of dry ground.
 He has no form or comeliness;
 And when we see Him,
 There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
 3 He is despised and rejected by men,
 A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
 And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
 He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
 4 Surely He has borne our griefs
 And carried our sorrows;
 Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
 Smitten by God, and afflicted.
 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
 He was bruised for our iniquities;
 The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
 And by His stripes we are healed.
 6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
 We have turned, every one, to his own way;
 And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
 Yet He opened not His mouth;
 He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
 And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
 So He opened not His mouth.
 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment,
 And who will declare His generation?
 For He was cut off from the land of the living;
 For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.
 9 And they made His grave with the wicked—
 But with the rich at His death,*

Because He had done no violence,
 Nor was any deceit in His mouth.
10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
 He has put Him to grief.
 When You make His soul an offering for sin,
 He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days,
 And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
11 [r]He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.
 By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
 For He shall bear their iniquities.
12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
 And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
 Because He poured out His soul unto death,
 And He was numbered with the transgressors,
 And He bore the sin of many,
 And made intercession for the transgressors.

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth*

Inherit means to receive possession.

Psalm 37:11 *But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Colossians 3:22-24 *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. **23** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.*

The inheritance of which our beatitude for today speaks is the eternal dwelling place of Christ followers described as the new earth in **Revelation 21:1** *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth

Our beatitude today cannot be summarized better or more concisely than Peter: **1 Peter 3:4** *Rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

Matthew 5:5

NIV in Colossians 3:5

Colossians 3:5 NKJV

1 Samuel 2:3

Romans 12:3

James 4:16

Matthew 11:29

Matthew 21:5

James 3:13

James 3:17-18

Isaiah 53 as a reference

Matthew 5:5

Psalms 37:11

Colossians 3:22-24

Revelation 21:1

1 Peter 3:4

~~Meekness requires a true view about ourselves. Romans 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*~~

Without humility there can be no such things as love, for the very beginning of love is a sense of unworthiness. And a concern for another greater than for self. Without humility there can be no true religion, for all true religion begins with a realization of our own weakness and of our need for GOD. Man reaches only true manhood when he is always conscious that he is the creature and that GOD is the CREATOR, and that without GOD he can do nothing.

Philippians 2:1-8 *Therefore if there is any [a]consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

Numbers 12:3 *(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)*

[[one feels at ease and comfortable in the presence of meekness]]

Meekness then is best typified by understanding and imitating JESUS.
Freedom from malice and a vengeful spirit.

Inherit ...often relates to entrance into the Promised Land, for example...

Deuteronomy 16:20 *You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*

Isaiah 57:13 *When you cry out,
Let your collection of idols deliver you.
But the wind will carry them all away,
A breath will take them.
But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land,
And shall inherit My holy mountain."*

Isiah 60:21 *Also your people shall all be righteous;
They shall inherit the land forever;
The branch of My planting,
The work of My hands,
That I may be glorified.*

Mat 5 or word inherit

*A number of justified interpretations could be made regarding inheriting the earth.
The context of indicates a most desirable reward from GOD to HIS humble servants.*

Reggie White in his new book In The Trenches does a wonderful job of describing this idea of meekness: Page 188-189