

The Beatitudes

The Third Beatitude

Int.

1. Aim: To explain the meaning of the third beatitude and make application to us today.
2. Matt. 5:5 "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."
 - a. The first 12 verses of the Sermon on the Mount contain what we call the beatitudes
 - b. In order to be happy we must be in a right relationship with God and our fellow
3. Summary of first two beatitudes
 - a. Blessed are the poor in spirit - to be poor is to be without - the poor in spirit are without pride and arrogance and therefore humble and can be taught God's will
 - b. Blessed are they that mourn - these are people who can grieve for their sin and therefore will turn away from sin - this is called repentance - a change of heart that results in a change of life.
4. This third beatitude is about the meek.

Discussion

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MEEK ?

A. It does not mean:

1. Weakness - being timid - being easily moved - spineless
2. Indifference
3. Peace at any price
4. Having an inferiority complex - shy and backward
5. A meek person is not a do nothing coward.
6. Meekness is not hypocritical humility. It is not a false humility. You do not portray the idea of "look how humble I am."

B. The word for meekness

1. Used the word to describe a young horse that was broken to the harness. A horse that once was wild but has become obedient to the bit and bridle.
2. The spirit of man is broken [subdued] - or it may be better to say a yielded spirit -- yielding to God.
3. Meekness is the opposite of "self-will" toward God, and "ill-will" toward man.
4. Meekness is the opposite of stubbornness.
5. Meekness is power that is under control, like the bit in a horse's mouth that controls the strength and will of the horse.
6. A meek person willingly submits to God's directions. Meekness demands great inner strength. It is power under control.
7. Meekness involves gentleness but behind the gentleness there is the strength of steel
 - a. It is the man who is under control -- self control - not just self control but allowing God to control our feelings and behavior.
 - b. It is strength under Godly control.
8. It is not a lack of emotion and passion; it is a proper and wise use of them.

C. Meekness has been possessed by all great men of God

1. Moses
 - a. Num. 12:3 "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth."
 - b. He went before the king of Egypt as a representative of God - he led the Israelites out of bondage - He showed great courage and leadership.

- c. This shows that meekness is not weakness - he submitted to God's message without murmuring. Strength under control.
2. David
- a. He has more to say about meekness than any other writer of the O.T.
 - b. Ps. 37:11 is similar to Mt. 5:5 It says: "but the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in abundance of peace."
3. Jesus - Mt. 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 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. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- a. Meekness is Christ-likeness
 - b. It is not:
 - (1) Self-seeking, but self-giving
 - (2) Self-willed, but God willed
 - (3) Self-glorification, but self humiliation
 - (4) Compromise with evil, but overcoming evil with good
 - (5) Cowardice, but courage
 - (6) Weakness, but strength
 - c. Those who are meek belong to Christ - they strive to pattern their lives after his example

d. How did he show meekness?

- (1) To the fallen he was not harsh but gentle - Jn. 8:1-11 woman taken in adultery
- (2) He was not a spineless man, but a courageous leader - John 2:13 -22 drove out the money changers
- (3) He suffered much wrong, but did no wrong
- (4) He was not vengeful, but forgiving- Lk. 23:34 "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do."
- (5) He yielded to the divine will, though it lead to his crucifixion - Mt. 26:39 "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

D. Meekness can be learned

1. Some have the mistaken view that some people have meekness and others do not!
2. God commands us to be meek
3. It is a quality that can be acquired

E. Value of meekness

1. In James 1:19 we are commanded to be "slow to wrath" -- we cannot justify our self by saying we were just "born quick-tempered."
2. Meekness is a quality that with the Lord's help we can develop in our lives.
3. We learn to be submissive to His will

II. THE BLESSING FOR THE MEEK

- A. They shall inherit the earth
1. It has a spiritual meaning - not a literal
 2. The meek will get much more out of life on earth
 3. Ps. 37:16 "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."
 - a. A meek man derives greater joy from a simple meal in a humble cottage than the proud man from the finest of foods in a stately mansion.
 - b. Meekness gives us the capacity to enjoy the things of God
 4. A haughty, covetous man may own many acres of the earth, but he does not inherit them for he is greedy and selfish.
 5. The man of meekness is happier
 6. Real enjoyment of earthly blessings can come only to the meek!
- B. Christians have the abundant life here and in the world to come eternal life.
1. Best of both worlds.
 2. Folks who cannot control themselves are never satisfied !
- C. Meekness is the secret of possessing everything:
1. You have a grip of what life on this earth is all about - 1 Tim. 6:6-8
 2. You have calmness
 - a. You are not shaken or excited by circumstances. Why?
 - b. You know God is in control !

3. You have mildness
 - a. You can avoid extreme reactions and behavior.
 - b. A meek person is mild and approachable, bringing comfort, calmness and peace to those around him.

CONCLUSION

1. **BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT**

a. **Specific**

- (1) Poor means to be without - spiritually it means we are without pride, arrogance and haughtiness
- (2) We must lay down human wisdom and accept guidance of Divine Revelation

b. **Results**

- (1) Kingdom of Heaven
- (2) The poor in spirit will receive God's greatest blessing!

c. **Principle**

- (1) Humility is the principle of this beatitude
- (2) We must humble our self - no one else can do it for us
- (3) A human man is teachable - moldable

d. **Application**

- (1) This attitude of humility opens the way for faith in God
- (2) Faith is trusting in God -- not self.
- (3) The poor in spirit will trust God.

2. The Second beatitude says: **BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN**

a. **Specific**

- i. This is the person who mourns for his sin and is filled with sorrow
- ii. This is *Godly sorrow* -- 2 Cor. 7:9-10
- iii. It is a change of mind because of God's message in the Bible, and it brings a change of life.

b. **Result**

- i. The people who can mourn for their sins will be comforted by forgiveness
- ii. Consolation is available

c. **Principle**

- i. *Godly sorrow* is the principle that causes mourning
- ii. A person who believes in God realizes that sin is against God and hurts Him
- iii. The Jews on Pentecost were pricked in their hearts when they realized they had killed the Son of God - Acts 2:37

d. **Application**

- i. Repentance
- ii. It is more than reform or change
- iii. Repentance is a change of life brought about because of a change of mind which was caused by *Godly sorrow* -- 2 Cor. 7:10

3. BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

a. Specific

- i. A meek person is not a weak person
- ii. But he is a person who is under self control and allows God to control his life
- iii. If we have meekness then we can have a proper reception of the Word -
 "wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." Jas. 1:21
 ASV

b. Results

- i. They inherit the earth
- ii. In order to inherit the earth [as He promises] it requires a death - the death to self- not my will but thine be done
- iii. The good things of God and eventually heaven are for the meek

c. Principle

- i. Meekness is Christ-like
- ii. It is yielding to God's will - being under His control
- iii. Meekness is submission which flows from a heart of faith [Trust]

d. Application

- i. A confession of our faith in Christ
- ii. It is an expression of our meekness or that we are willing to be under the control of Christ.
- iii. It implies that we are now ready to let Christ be in Charge.

4. *Meekness* - the quiet, gentle, tenderhearted and supremely self-controlled life that comes from knowing *God's* holiness and surrendering to His control of our lives and our circumstances.

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