

Blessed are the Meek

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Matthew 5:5 - "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Continuing the Beatitudes, Jesus turns His attention to the meek. The virtue of meekness has almost become the subject of derision today. It is often confused with timidness or weakness. In actuality, the virtue of meekness is characterized by quiet strength, or patience, in times of adversity or persecution, and has oftentimes been called "strength under control."

Jesus was the perfect embodiment of meekness (Matt. 11:29; 21:5). Before Him, Moses was also an excellent example of meekness (Num. 12:3). Surely no one would challenge the greatness of these two. And yet, they would never exalt themselves above others. (Note: Jesus IS highly exalted, but notice that it was the FATHER Who highly exalted Him — Php. 2:9 — He wasn't about exalting HIMSELF). Thus, meekness is closely connected to humility.

Those who are meek are naturally grateful: "The meek shall eat and be satisfied ..." (Psa. 22:26). The meek are teachable: "The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way" (Psa. 25:9). It is the meek who will be lifted up and BEAUTIFIED by the Lord (Psa. 147:6; 149:4). Meekness is a prerequisite to salvation (Psa. 76:9).

Thus, when we read in Matt. 5:5 that it is the meek that shall inherit the earth, it makes perfect sense. Many commentators believe that "the earth" here is in reference to "the land," paralleling with the Promised Land of Canaan in the Old Testament. In other words, it is the meek (and subsequently obedient) who will inherit the land that God has promised to the faithful — HEAVEN!

With this in view, we must ask ourselves, are we meek, or arrogant? Do we display quiet strength, or loud obstinance? Are we humble and patient, or prideful and quick to react in a sinful way? Do we follow the example of our Savior, or do we follow in the footsteps of the world?

We must examine ourselves and ensure that we could be described as meek by all of those around us — admiringly by those who strive to be faithful Christians, like us, and derogatorily by those who despise Christianity. But let us remember that it doesn't matter what people think about us; as long as we are pleasing in the sight of GOD, what MEN think doesn't matter. So let us seek to be meek, so that we can inherit the promise of everlasting life!