



## **Matthew 5:5**

5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

What is going on here? At the end of this sermon Matthew says the crowds were astonished, but right now surely they just must be confused. I mean what is this man saying? You can hear them can't you? 'What he's saying flies in the face of anything I've ever heard or been taught. What's going on here? Blessed are the poor – no they're not, they're poor!

Blessed are those who mourn – what? That’s like saying happy are those who are unhappy. It makes no sense. And now, blessed are the meek? You mean the downtrodden, the ones that let others walk all over them? Who in their right mind wants to be poor, who in their right mind wants to mourn, and who in their right mind wants to be meek? Rather be rich, happy, and on top of the world. What on earth is going on here?’

Well what’s going on here is the Sermon on the Mount. This is what happens when the wisdom of the kingdom of this world collides head on with the wisdom of the kingdom of heaven. When human wisdom collides with the wisdom of God. When our culture collides head on with Jesus. The world’s being turned on its head through the preaching of Jesus. Jesus is preaching the kingdom of God, and

it's radically different to the kingdom of this world, which is why his sermon is so radically counter-cultural. Not rich and proud; poor in spirit. Not myopically pretending to be happy; but seeing clearly and mourning the state of our world. Not proud, not self-confident, not on top of the world, not high levels of self-esteem, self-worth, self-fulfilment – but meekness.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Let's start with the word 'meek.' We don't hear it all that often, we don't use it all that much these days, and in our day and age that's not surprising at all. The Greek word here that has been translated as 'meek' in English means 'gentle,' 'humble,' 'considerate,' and 'courteous.' Whereas when I googled 'meek' what came back was 'quiet, gentle, and easily imposed on; submissive.' You can

feel our culture coming to bear on the word can't you, with negative connotations, 'easily imposed on, submissive,' you can feel the negative connotations behind those words.

Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the gentle, humble, considerate, courteous, quiet, easily imposed on, the submissive. Jesus says their blessed. But how so?

Well let's think about it. In the first verse of his sermon, Matthew 5:3, Jesus taught us that the Christian faith is built upon being poor in spirit. Built on understanding that we are spiritually bankrupt, hopelessly sinful, able to bring nothing to our salvation, and in desperate need of grace. We bring nothing, and we're saved by grace, a free gift, not earned or merited. So verse 3, we're poor in spirit, and when this really hits home, as we

think about this and it hits up emotionally we mourn, which is the second verse of Jesus' sermon, that we looked at it yesterday. We mourn our sin, we're sorry for it, we ask for forgiveness for it, we see clearly and so we mourn our inability to live lives that are worthy of God. So when you see yourself like this, when you see yourself in this true light, well of course the next natural step is to be humble – the third verse of Jesus' sermon. Because we see clearly, we must acknowledge our spiritual poverty, because we see clearly we then mourn our sin, and because we see clearly we no longer think of ourselves more highly than we ought. I mean, how can we, when our sin is always before us? So to be humble, to be meek, is to be Christian.

And this is why the meek will inherit the earth. Our world says that the meek get no-

where but Jesus says that they will inherit the earth. Because the meek are those who see clearly, those who know their spiritual poverty, those who mourn their sin, they are those who await the 'new heavens and the new earth' that they will inherit as followers of Jesus when he returns and makes all things new again.

So to be a Christian, to fully appreciate your standing before God, and to live out this realisation, is to be meek. But what does it look like to be meek? To be humble?

The great preacher Martin Lloyd Jones says the one who is truly meek is the one who is truly amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do. And so to be meek is to be continuously grateful to God and those around

you for everything good thing they say and do towards you. To be meek is to lose any sense of entitlement, that the world or people owe you anything. To be meek is to be humble and gentle and considerate. It's being sensitive and patient, and dare I say, easily imposed on – having time for others, making time for others, considering their needs higher than your own. If someone cuts in on you in a queue, the meek person just smiles and makes room. She knows that she's been forgiving much, so she can love much. She knows that that person's time is probably more valuable than her own, after all she's going to live for eternity, and chances are that person only has 80 years, 80 urgent years to come to know Christ, and so thinking about it that way, their time is much more important than hers. And who knows letting them in with a smile might create an opportunity

to share the gospel? And do you know, almost by way of bonus, there's great peace and blessing in humility. And I'm not sure there's a more attractive or endearing quality in the whole world. Which often means that the humble people are the most loved, the most respected, and believe it or not, the most successful. Think for a moment at some of the leaders you most admire, you'd be surprised how many of them are characterized by great humility.

Are you meek in your heart? Do you come across as meek other people? Jesus says that out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. When you speak do people hear humility? If you want someone to model yourself off then you need look no further than Jesus. We struggle to be humble even when we know that we are sinful to the core. And



yet Jesus never sinned, and he was still the humblest person to ever walk the earth. If there was ever anyone who had the right to be proud it was him and yet he was humble. So humble that he stepped down out of heaven, God become man, to live amongst us, to become the least amongst us, and to die for us as the servant of us all. Are you humble like Jesus? Think about this and then ask God in prayer for him to change you from the inside out by his Holy Spirit. Pray that your humility might become evident to all and that through it, when people encounter you, they might encounter Jesus, and turn to him and be saved.

Poor in spirit, mourning with God's eyes, meek like Jesus, and tomorrow we hunger and thirst and Jesus' sermon unfolds. I hope you can join me.