



Sermon on the Mount
Wk. 4 "Blessed are the Meek"
By Pastor Jody May 09/15/2024

Matthew 5:1-11 ESV

The Sermon on the Mount

5 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[READ THE TEXT]

Pastor – "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People – "Thanks be to God."

[PRAY]



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[REVIEW]

Jesus seeing the crowds (v. 1), it means **he knew of their plights and acted accordingly**. And He began to teach His disciples with the thousands within ear shot, so as to give multiple witnesses to what it was, He was saying. And we see Jesus begins His sermon with an attitude adjustment piece, **Blessed, μακάριος**; Happy is the man. The underlying position for all of these beatitudes is Jesus declaring to them, *here it is what makes you happy, it's not based in what you think makes you happy, God is the one that determines what is good for you*. I wonder if you caught in your Bible reading this past week just how old that doctrine is?

Job 5:17 ESV

"Behold, **blessed** is the one whom God **reproves**; therefore despise not the **discipline** of the Almighty."

Happy is the man that God is actively in work in his life; causing them to see they are poor in spirit, causing them to mourn over sin, for that act of reproof is a sign of a faithful God. Jesus is only expanding the teaching of Job so you can see how Job is being torn down and built back up, so we can see how we will be torn down and built back up.

Here is one man speaking to thousands of Jews in Roman controlled Palestine, and He sees that what they really **need** is to be set right on **what makes them happy**, just like how Job needed correction.

That's the premise He starts with, I wonder how we would all react if we walked into a Drs. Office, or a Therapist, or a lawyer perhaps, someone to which you have come to for help, and they look at you, and seeing your frown and angst upon your face, that physical evidence of your pain and turmoil, and they tell you without you ever saying a word, here's why that frown doesn't matter. As a matter of fact, that pain on your face really means you don't know what makes you happy, here let me tell you what makes you happy. Then they proceed to treat you, give you a shot, a lollipop, ten steps to a happier you, and perhaps a hefty charge for their consult, and send you on



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your way. You're probably not coming back, right? This person was not inclined to listen to you, seemed not to understand your plight, and had the audacity to tell you what you really needed when you knew going in, what was bothering you. As incredible as that sounds, that is exactly what Jesus did to thousands of people, and not just here on the mount but for all His ministry, at all His speaking events.

[INTRO]

When we arrive at this 3rd beatitude this is why this seems so peculiar, or why it would start to make all those people start to turn and look at each other.

You see the first two beatitudes has to do with your relationship with God, no one else. Blessed are the poor in spirit (the spiritually bankrupt) and blessed are those that mourn (those that can actually mourn over sin) that's about you. No one, unless you share it, sees that work going on in your heart. But when we get to this third one, **⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."** well, all of the sudden, Jesus gives a mark of Christianity that will be on display to everyone. Meekness is a demeanor, or a behavioral trait displayed perhaps for God but it is done to other people. This trait is something very hard to fake, you can't muster it, and **for a Jew you don't want to**, and here's why.

Evidence for Jews being a proud people.

Jews were a very proud people, and it didn't matter your family name or your social status, or your economic class, **you were a people chosen by God**. That meant all Jews believed they were owed freedom and liberty in their own land, because it was promised to them by God, and **all of them hated foreign rule!** They fought to get their land in the time of Joshua (1405 BC) and David finally took Jerusalem 400 years later (1003 BC). Their version of a civil war started in 930 BC and until their final routing by Babylon in 586 BC (344 yrs.) they had never known peace. Upon their return from foreign lands, they rebuilt their city with swords in their hands according to Nehemiah, then there was a short time of lived peace but as a vasaal of the Persian Empire. Jerusalem was taken by Macedonian Greeks in 200 BC, a break off of Alexander's Dynasty, and they shook that off by force by 160 BC in a skirmish



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called the Maccabean Revolt. Then in 63 BC General Pompey, who defeated Spartacus and helped put Julius Caesar in power, took Jerusalem subjugating the Jews to a fake line of High priests and Edomite Kings, all under Roman Supervision. Up to Jesus time there were ongoing skirmishes between the Zealots of the day and the Romans, which lead as you know to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD and eventually the utter routing and destruction of all Jewish strongholds in 136 AD by Hadrian, the emperor of Rome, dispersing the Jews all over the world. Ever since their return in May 1948, what have you seen of their pride? Every Jew born in Israel will serve in the military, and is trained how to shoot and fight to keep what they believe God gave to them.

You see **Jews didn't want to hear** a call to be **Meek** they wanted a call to fight, rise up, bear arms, it's time to rebel! The leading political factions of the day all had a different desire to get rid of their adversaries. The pharisees wanted someone to kick the Sadducees out of the Sanhedrin, but the Sadducees wanted someone to kick the Herodians out of Palestine leaving them to rule, and the Essenes wanted someone to come and make everything about the spiritual pursuit of God and usher in their own time of hippy love, and the Zealots wanted a war general like David to kick it all off! All of that to say that **they wanted a Messiah that was going to lead them at least to retaking their land from Rome**, surely He would do that!

To have though, Jesus a man that was revered by the majority of the crowds/the people's choice, who after the arrest of JB had raised up and called out, "**The time is fulfilled, for the Kingdom of God is at Hand!**" ([Mark 1:14-15](#)), who also was hated by the elites, to say all of the sudden that the entrance into that Kingdom was to be Meek!? That means pride would have to be swallowed, outrageous taxes paid, living through more political and religious corruption, and more Pax Roma to be endured. Surely Jesus that's not what you mean? That's exactly what He meant.

Not only is Meekness the new path Jesus is declaring for His people, but that was now the way for them to attain their inheritance in the earth. This was the way to not just have influence over Palestine, but this was the way to get to the glorious Day of the Lord, where everyone will be a worshipper!



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([Jeremiah 3:17](#); [Isaiah 2:2](#); [Isaiah 66:18](#); [Isaiah 66:23](#); [Psalm 86:9](#)) But just how does that come to fruition by Meekness? More than that, in your life this is your command Christian, how do you portray meekness when the world makes it a habit to run over people that turn the other cheek? So today we need to confront our pride and let this little verse reflect on us, do we really want our inheritance? Today we will be looking at, **Defining what Meekness is, Depicting Meekness in Scripture, Determining why Meekness is Necessary, and Developing Meekness in Ourselves.**

1. Defining what Meekness is.

4558 πραῦς (*praus*), **gentle**, meek, mild (Mt 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1Pe 3:4+)¹

Meekness is not a feminine nor a masculine trait, it is a Christian trait. Some have considered it to be an exclusive woman trait from the same use of the word in **1 Peter 3:4** – “(wives) Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a **gentle** and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.” To be used here does not necessitate it to be an exclusive trait for women even though men may not like the use of the word.

But the word **Praus** may be better viewed as what that word was used for in the culture of that day. It was a popular Greek word that was used for that day to describe the taming of **wild mustangs**.² Horses were brought in from the mountains and after months of training they were sorted for duty. Some were discarded, some were put into everyday service to pull a plow or cart, while only a few were selected for war duty. These horses would have had to portray the strength that was born in them through the wild while showing the discipline to be able to follow commands even under the duress of battle. You see if you are a soldier you need a steed that could take the smell of blood, a flight of fiery arrows, a charge into the ranks, and not run in fear but respond with strength and commitment to he who is doing the thinking for the horse, so victory may be obtained. That horse in the face of danger must

¹ Meek - **4558** πραῦς (*praus*), πραεῖα (*praeia*), πραῦ (*prau*): adj.; ≡ Str 4239; TDNT 6.645–LN 88.60 **gentle**, meek, mild (Mt 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1Pe 3:4+); James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

² <https://margmowczko.com/meek-warhorses-praus/>



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trust his master. **That is Praus**, a horse was **meekened**, the strength was not driven out, it was tempered like steel and was now usable to the calvary man.

Blessed are the Meek, the tempered, the wild one that was taken in and broken. The one that was able to undergo harsh treatment, and now was ready to be patient in hard times, that would not bolt and run, the one that came to understand that the master is the one that makes tactical decisions you can't understand. Are you a meekened person, or are you ready to bolt when it gets tough?

MP:

**Meekness is great strength displayed
in submissive obedience.**

Now let's learn what this looked like in scripture to get a better handle on this.

2. Depicting Meekness in Scripture.

Psalm 37:11 ESV

But the **meek** shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant grace.

You heard that verse in our call to worship, did you hear the verses that came before it, "trust the Lord, commit to Him, delight yourself in Him, be patient and wait on Him, the wicked will be no more." Meekness has always been the path to find your peace no matter your circumstances, because again it trusts in the one who is 'gentling' you. What has that looked like in scripture?

Genesis 13:8-9 ESV

⁸Then **Abram** said to **Lot**, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. ⁹Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left."

Meekness looks like when an older man surrenders the road to the younger more prideful individual. Father Abraham had already been given a promise by God that through him would come the blessing of the nations, that his name



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would be great, and all the families of the earth will be blessed through him ([Gen 12:1-3](#)). Abraham looked at his nephew and he let God worry about the details. He knew God would bless him no matter what, it was not the time to demand what was promised to him. **Meekness is displayed in submissive obedience waiting on God to make things happen.**

Genesis 50:18-21 ESV

His **brothers** also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But **Joseph** said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Meekness looks like not only the ability to withhold vengeance, but it puts the voice of reconciliation in your mouth, your heart forgives, your desire is to comfort those that caused you to mourn. Meekness is recognizing God is sovereign and ordained your hardships for the good of others, even those you love. Then Meekness goes even further after slights it manifests itself in love towards those that had caused pain and blesses them. That my friend can only come from an inner strength conditioned by God, that trusts God with the plans, that doesn't care about slights. **Meekness is displayed in submissive obedience to bless those that had one time cursed you.**

1 Samuel 24:10-11 ESV

Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' ¹¹ See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it.

Meekness looks like the ability to hold back your hand from doing violence to someone that was on purpose trying to be violent towards you. **David** had held back his hand twice ([1 Sam 26:16](#)) even though the kingdom had been



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promised to David, even though **Saul** had tried to take his life, even while in that process Saul had murdered to get to David. Meekness was an obedience to God first, to be displayed in front of everyone, that one does not touch the Lord's anointed. **Meekness is displayed in submissive obedience to God to obey authority recognizing that it was God who put them there.**

Isaiah 42:2-3 ESV

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
² He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

1 Peter 2:23 ESV

When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Meekness looks like when all the world is yours, when all are under your reign, when all owe their existence to you, when all are under your sovereign care, that He did not retaliate against those who opposed him. Jesus the fulfillment of Abraham's promise that comes through Him, Jesus the one left by His twelve brothers on the night of His crucifixion, Jesus who was the ordained forever inheritor of David's throne yet pursued by false Kings to kill Him. He subjected His life to His Father, and proclaimed "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." ([John 10:18](#)). **This is Meekness, a great strength displayed in submissive obedience to the Father, so that all may discover the way to inherit the earth.** Are you ready to follow Him, are you ready to take His yoke and learn from Him?

In case you are wondering is there another way around this, let's talk about why this is necessary.

3. Determining why Meekness is necessary.



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Ephesians 4:1-3 ESV

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all **humility and gentleness**, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the **unity** of the Spirit in the **bond** of peace.

Meekness is necessary for it is the number one priority to live with others in Christian community/church. If you don't have meekness, if you don't have humility, if you don't consider others as more significant than yourselves, then you can't have a church. Because if a church is going to live and thrive then it has to have people that model what meekness looked like in Christ, a quite strength with submissive obedience.

Psalm 149:4 ESV

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the **humble** with **salvation**.

Meekness is necessary for Salvation. It's not that meekness leads to Salvation, but that meekness is a standard for all saved people. You show me a person prideful, puffed up, demands there way, and I will show you an unsaved person. It is necessary, for it is one of the first signs that someone is truly regenerate and repentant, that they, like a wild mustang has made the final cut, the elect, and are ready serve their master.

James 1:21 ESV

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with **meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

Psalm 25:9 ESV

He **leads** the **humble** in what is right, and **teaches** the **humble** his way.

Meekness is necessary in order to understand God's Word. Meekness is required for service to God but it is also the way that we keep being teachable for God. When we practice obeying the convictions put on us by God's Word practicing that quiet submission, then the HS keeps illuminating things for us to see and learn. Being humble is the proper stance when reading the Bible



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for it always assumes there is something not just to hear but to learn as well, to be trained for a deeper walk in service to our king.

1 Peter 3:15 ESV

"but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always **being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness** and respect,"

Meekness is necessary to be an effective witness and testimony. Having a boastful personality and then give the gospel to someone is hypocritical it doesn't work, it doesn't go together. *"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."* ([1 Cor:30-31](#)) People will lose hope if they hear a testimony that puts you as the Savior of your own soul, they need to hear the person that declares their spiritual bankruptcy and isn't ashamed to do it. This is so anti worldly that the Lord uses those messages to speak loud and clear to those He calls. Meekness in evangelizing also looks past the anger of the disbeliever, and looks past the emotions of a hostile crowd like Stephen, and is able to pray for those they speak to.

[CHALLENGE]

4. Developing Meekness in ourselves.

Matthew 11:29-30 ESV

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. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Why do we want to do this, because our master has shown He is meek, He is gentle and lowly, His has restrained strength in reserve, He is unoppressive in His rule, your wick He will not snuff out, your reed He will not break. We trust Him because He has mastered this path of quiet strength and submissive obedience, and He has inherited the earth, all authority has been given to Him. He is the one now that will give it to His people in the future, is that you? Then here is the way to take up His yoke, His teaching, His burden.



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Matthew 16:24 ESV

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and take up his **cross** and **follow me**."

Deny your desire to run like that mustang, deny that desire to take offense, to run, to shut others out, to turn others off, that says you're the boss, you want to fight, you want your freedom above all. Deny that, and instead pick up your cross, as Christ walks by in your life, follow after Him, let the world see that you have a master that has gentled you, that has made you meek, that you can follow His commands and not your impulses. **Show your quiet strength in submissive obedience to Him.** Follow down His path that leads you to your inheritance one day, your piece of this world, to live for eternity with Him. Do that and you will find rest.

Maybe your there and then maybe you're not. I have got three questions to ask yourself today to determine are you on that path to receive that inheritance.

Do I only react to life, or do I experience self-control?

Do you bolt when scared, do you run when angry, do you flee when cornered? Or are you in that place that when life comes, you practice letting Jesus take the reins and you obey the conviction you receive from the Word. **Want a clue, then ask a friend.**

Do I make peace, or do I trail brokenness?

When it gets tough, do you react on others, do you find someone to blame, do you resort to fighting with those around you? Or are you in a place where those around you gain comfort from you in times of trials, do they run to you to see what you do when the going gets tough. **Want a clue, then ask a family member.**

Do I obey the Word humbly/obediently, or do I deny/repulse sanctification?

When you read the Word do you do it to just checkoff the box or when you read it do you slow down and notice the corrections God is calling for in your life? Have you noticed in yourself, a repentant attitude, you highlight those



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verses, mark when you prayed them, and kept track of how that is working out in your life? **Want a clue, ask God, and then ask your spouse?**

Family Blessed are the Meek, for they shall inherit the earth. But that path begins with the admittance of you being poor in spirit, and the lack of shame to mourn over your sin, because there is no meekness to be gained without first noticing your need of God in your life. If that's you let us all go to Him now who will graciously give us what we need for those that humbly seek Him.

[PRAYER]

[CALL TO OBEY]

Elder - Church, our Lord explained to us what it meant to be a Christian. *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* Take His yoke, learn from Him, be gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls because His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

[COMMUNION]

Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life, that when Jesus was reviled He reviled us not. That upon choosing to be submissive unto the Father, He bore the mark of that submission upon the tree, completing the task we could never endure. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.



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Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin, that our denial to submit to His authority cost Him the blood required for our sin. By His wounds we were healed, by His gentle spirit we were broken into submission, by His offer of sacrifice first, we were shown we could trust Him. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]

* The Congregation will stand

Elder – "Christians, what do you believe?"

Congregation recites:

Philippians 2:8-11 ESV

⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[OFFERING+LAST SONG] –

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that provided for a way for us to be meekened, it was by the offering of His Son to endure the greatest of hardships first.

Go in the name of the Son, that chose perfect submission to His Father by laying down His life for His people, while we were still sinners.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that opens our eyes to our gentle Lord, that calls us to trust in His care, now go and tell others of His great love.



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