

Blessings: The Blessing of Meekness

Matthew 5:5

Opening Discussion:

1. How have you witnessed people abusing power in our society?
2. In what ways do those who abuse power benefit from doing so?
3. In general, do you think people get away with abusing power and hurting others for their own benefit?
4. Do you ever get mad because you feel powerless to right a wrong?
5. What does Jesus say about the proper use of power?

Those who abuse power will end up with nothing, and those who trust the Lord will inherit everything.

Overview of the Blessing Statements:

The blessing statements are eight paradoxical statements with a similar structure: a declaration of blessing followed by a condition, which is followed by a reward for the condition.

A paradox is the intentional intersection of apparent contradictions used to communicate truth.

As an introduction to the Sermon on the Mount, these statements describe the root attitudes that lead to righteous fruit.

The Third Blessing Statement:

1. The meek

The meek are the lowly, humble, powerless, poor, marginalized.

It applies to those who are truly powerless: the truly poor, the truly marginalized, the voiceless, the weak

It also applies to those who have power

- They are to be in control of their power
- They are not to flaunt their power
- They are not to be known for their power

Jesus is our perfect model

- In His humanity, Jesus was powerless and marginalized

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- In His Deity, Jesus was powerful yet:
 - Was in control of His power
 - Rarely put His power on display
 - Never used His power to serve Himself

2. Shall inherit the earth

This blessing statement is rooted in Psalm 37

Psalm 37:10-15

10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. **11** But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace. **12** The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, **13** but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. **14** The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; **15** their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.

This does not mean: be nice, and nice things will happen for you. This means that when we trust the Lord, He fights for us.

The Lord fights on behalf of the meek.

Fill in the Blank Answers

Introduction:

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Overview:

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The First Blessing Statement: meek, inherit, earth