

## **Beatitudes—Walking in Meekness**

*(Week 3—Jan 27th)*

***“Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.”***

**-Matthew 5:5**

Blessed are the gentle, or the meek. Who are the meek/gentle? Jesus is described as meek in Matthew 11:29 and 21:5. This term has been defined as “controlled strength.” Greeks used this word to describe a horse that has been broken and trained—full of incredible strength and power, but completely under the control of its master. John MacArthur defines it as “supreme self-control empowered by the Spirit.” It is obvious that this term gentle/meek does not in any way mean weakness. Yet it is not uncontrolled or reckless strength or power. I picture Aslan playing with Lucy with his mighty, powerful strength contained by loving gentleness.

The meek quietly and humbly submit themselves to God—to His Word of truth and direction and to His rod of correction and discipline. They gladly follow the Lord’s leading and direction, resigned to fulfill His will unto His glory (instead of living it up for myself to try to suck the most joy and pleasure out of life, insisting that I am my own God and in control of my own life). Some great expression of meekness include:

- When aggravated by someone either staying quiet or responding with a soft answer rather than becoming angry.
- Choosing to celebrate and be excited for other’s success more than your own.
- Being able to show displeasure toward things when it’s appropriate without giving way to rudeness, aggression, hostility or indecency.
- Staying patient and self-controlled when everything else is falling apart.
- Being not easily angered, but quick to seek peace even if you must lay down your pride.
- Seeking to forgive 20 injuries rather than avenge one.

The meek are blessed and happy because they enjoy life peacefully. They spare themselves from the pains of hate, anger and revenge. They comfortably enjoy themselves, their friends, and their God. They can joyfully endure any relationship and any circumstance and condition, enabling them to create wonderfully deep friendships that last.

The meek inherit the earth in a very real, immediate, temporary (as well as eternal) experience. Meekness promotes health, wealth, comfort and safety in this world. The meek live the most enjoyable lives, graciously enduring all that they face and encounter. And, they will certainly enjoy all of the blessedness of heaven!

**Questions**

**Read Genesis 13:1-13. Abram had complete authority over Lot and he could have demanded to take whichever land he desired. Instead, how did he demonstrate meekness in the midst of this challenging situation? How can you demonstrate this kind of meekness in situations in your life?**

**Read Numbers 12. How did Moses demonstrate meekness when his closest friends betrayed him? How can you show this kind of meekness to others?**

**Read 1 Samuel 26. How did David act in gentleness toward Saul in this situation? Why did he choose to act this way? In what kind of situations in your own life can you act like David in this way?**

**Read Matthew 26:1-56. Here we see possibly the greatest act of meekness ever by our Lord, Jesus. How does Jesus hold back His power in order for God to accomplish His will for Jesus' life?**

***Pray and ask God what areas in your life you need to grow in meekness, gentleness and humility? Ask Him for the grace and strength to start making changes so you can honor Him and enjoy His blessing/promises.***