

Blessed are the Gentle



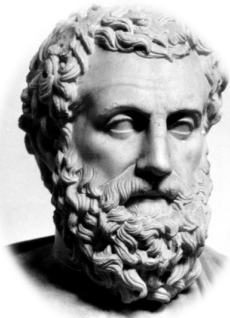
As we continue our careful walk through the Beatitudes there are two things that we ought to be seeing. **First**, these simple statements are something that we can put to our memory. **Second**, we are getting a picture of the character and the heart that God notices.

A. The third beatitude, "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."

1. This is one of the most difficult beatitude to understand
2. The KJV, NIV, ESV all use the word "Meek." Blessed are the meek..

- Meekness doesn't carry well in our times. It is equated with being weak, a pushover, allowing someone to take advantage of you. A person is not going to get anywhere these days by being a softy. Aggressive and tough are the traits that make it in sports and business.

The word Jesus uses here (praus) is that of gentle, considerate, humble, courteous.



3. When Aristotle wrote about ethics:

- Between cowardice & foolhardy actions was **C** _____
- Between stinginess & wastefulness was **G** _____
- Between excessive anger & the inability to show anger was **M** _____

4. The English writer Barclay described meekness as: "Anger on the right occasion and with right people and at the right moment and for the right length of time."
- "Blessed is the man who is always angry at the right time and never angry at the wrong time"

5. This Greek word, "Praus" is used of animals that have been domesticated , such as a horse

It is Strength under _____
It is used of people who know how to behave p _____

- Jesus used this very word to describe Himself: "For I am gentle and humble in heart" (Mt 11:29)
- This is demonstrated in the ease at which people could come to Jesus. They were not fearful, nor intimidated by Him. He never made them feel as if they were bothering Him.

Jesus wasn't a Pushover

1. He stood toe to toe with the challenges of the Pharisees (Mt 19:3; 21:23; 22:23)
2. He overcame the temptations of Satan (Mt 4)
3. He drove out the money changers (Jn 2:15)
4. He could have called legions of angels (Mt 26:53)

B. Of the Beatitudes, this one did not _____ with Jesus - it is first found in Psalms 37:11

C. The direction of flow of the beatitudes is not toward others, but our spirit _____ God

- This is the quality of spirit that makes one _____ before the Lord
 - Empty heart (poor in spirit) - Shameful heart (mourn) - Humble heart (Meek)
- Ps 35:14 I prayed with head bowed on my chest
Lk 18:13 "But the tax-gatherer, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to Heaven..."

1. To be meek is to be:

T _____ (Ps 25:9)

D _____ by the Lord (Mt 11:29)

Treat others with k _____ and gentleness

- not to be a know it all
- not to be selfish
- not to be demanding

Meekness is a characteristic of God's people

- Receive the word with meekness (Jas 1:21)
- A _____ with meekness (1 Pet 3:15)
- Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
- C _____ in a spirit of gentleness (Gal 6:1)
- Put on a heart of compassion, kindness (Col 3:12)

D. Moses is called the most humble person on earth (Num 12:3)

- contextually, this is found when Miriam and Aaron challenged Moses' leadership
- they did not like who Moses had married
- through this God spoke, not Moses. There is no arguing coming from Moses

1. The gentleness of Jesus did not keep Him from the cross

- 1 Pet 2:22-23 he did not respond in the way He was treated
- Meekness is keeping our head with all others are losing theirs and blaming it on you

E. To inherit the earth:

- is not a premillennial statement that is about future life on earth
- in the Psalms passage, it is about the land. Who will possess the land? Who will receive the Lord's blessings? It is those who are humble before the Lord.
- Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."
 - Love kindness and walk humbly with God—that's the concept of MEEKNESS
- Ps 8:4 "What is man, that Thou doest take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou doest care for him?"
- Knowing that God loves you, thinks about you, cares for you, ought to make you realize how blessed we are. It ought to humble us. It ought to make us obedient, thankful and love the Lord.

1. Inherit the earth is _____ the blessings that are in Christ

Ps 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"

- this takes place **now** as we are walking with the Lord

- Mt 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in Heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

- Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places."

