

The Beatitudes
Part 3
“Blessed Are The Meek”

Introduction

1. Thus far we have studied the first two of the beatitudes Jesus delivered to the multitudes who were desirous of having a happy life.
 - a. The multitude listened intently to Jesus as He preached on how to be happy and how to please God.
 - b. Today we need to intently listen to Jesus for the same reasons.
 - c. God speaks to us today through His Son. (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2).

Matt 17:5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, **"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"**

Heb 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
Heb 1:2 **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

Spiritual Poverty

2. The **first beatitude** emphasized we must realize we cannot save ourselves by our goodness, works, etc.
 - a. Only those who realize their **spiritual destitution** before God will be saved.
 - b. Heaven is reserved for those who **depend on God** for salvation and not their own works or the works of others.
 - c. All our works are like filthy, disgusting rags before God without the blood of Jesus.

Mourning Over Sin

3. The **second beatitude** stressed happiness comes to those who mourn over their sins.
 - a. They are not proud of their sins and do not boast of their sins
 - b. They mourn over their sins, **but do not remain in a state of mourning**.
 - 1) God wants us to be happy. (Psa. 148:15).
 - 2) Perpetual mourning drives others away from God.
 - 3) It makes us miserable.
 - c. Mourning over sin has no real value if it does not lead to action - repentance and submission to God.

- d. Mourning must lead one to the Savior and a changed life - a life seeking to please God and His Son.
- e. **It leads to a dependance on God's grace.**
- f. It demands we trust in the precious and atoning blood of Jesus. (Heb. 9:22).
- g. Comfort will come to those who let their godly sorrow lead to repentance and a life pleasing to the Master.

Third Beatitude

MAT 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth

1. It comes from the Greek "praus" meaning "meek, gentle, mild, kind, benevolent, submissive."

- a. Jesus was "gentle." (Matt. 21:5).

Matt 21:5 "SAY TO THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, **GENTLE** [humble], AND MOUNTED ON A DONKEY, EVEN ON A COLT, THE FOAL OF A BEAST OF BURDEN.'"

- 1) Jesus was always submissive to the will of God. (Jn. 5:30).

John 5:30 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because **I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

- 2) **He was gentle with those sincerely seeking the truth and His help.**

- b. Christian ladies are taught to exercise gentleness [kindness and submissiveness] with their unbelieving husbands. (1 Pet. 3:4).

1 Pet 3:4 but {let it be} the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of **a gentle** and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

- c. Christians are to restore those who have been overcome with sin "in a spirit of gentleness." (Gal. 6:1).

Gal 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one **in a spirit of gentleness**; {each one} looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

- 1) It does not mean the "spiritual" should not tell the truth.
- 2) "Gentleness" means one should not be overly harsh in restoring those overtaken by sin.
- 3) It does not mean these sins should be minimized and those who have been overtaken by them should be encouraged to remain in sin.
- 4) Those who have true love call upon those overtaken by sin to repent and return to God.

- d. "Gentleness" is one of the characteristics of those who have "the fruit of the Spirit." (Gal. 5:22-23).

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1) Only the gentle manifest the Holy Spirit is truly in their lives.

2) Those lacking in gentleness manifest they are not yielding to the Holy Spirit.

2. The word “meek” is in many translations of Matthew 5:5. KJV, ASV, NKJV

a. Some associate “meekness” with weakness..

b. The word does not denote one who is weak or timid.

c. This is profoundly manifested by Jesus and by Moses.

1) Jesus certainly was not a weak man, but boldly spoke God’s word and strongly rebuked sin. See Matt. 23; 21:12-13. Strength and courage Jesus manifested during His trial and crucifixion.

2) Neither was Moses weak. (Num. 12:3).

Num 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

The **ASV** has “very meek, above all the men that were upon the earth.

d. A study of the life of Moses is hardly a study of a weak or timid man especially during the last 40 years of his life.

d. He boldly encountered the Pharaoh of Egypt and led the Israelites to the promised land of Canaan.

e. A weak man could not have led millions of Israelites and 600,000 able bodied men over 20.

3. The word can mean “gentle.” (NIV). It also has the idea, at times, of humility and receptiveness (Jas. 1:21).

James 1:21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and {all} that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ASV “received with meekness” See also Jas. 1:22.

4. It was used to describe a horse that had been gentled and was submissive to its master.

5. We must be receptive and submissive to the word of God.

a. It should be **treasured in our hearts**. (Psa. 119:11).

Ps 119:11 Your word I have **treasured in my heart**, That I may not sin against You.

b. It should be **our delight** and we should meditate on it. (Psa. 1:1,2).

Ps 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Ps 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

c. Only the obedient will be saved. (Heb. 5:9).

Heb 5:9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

Inherit The Earth

6. "Inherit the earth" - "ge" (gay) means "earth, land." IEB "Humble people are happy, because the earth will be given to them."

a. The Lord promises to bless those who seek His kingdom first. (Matt. 6:33; Mk. 10:29-30).

Matt 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Mark 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,

Mark 10:30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

1) The language here is very difficult in some respects.

2) Not all who follow Jesus are rich materially.

3) Many become better off materially, but not all.

4) The material blessings here may be a figurative way of describing the great spiritual blessings in Jesus. (Eph. 1:3).

5) **God promises us the necessities of life.** (Matt. 6:33).

Earth Is Not Our Eternal Home

b. These words "inherit the earth" do not mean the earth will be our eternal home.

1) **Not literal** - The earth will not become a Paradise, but the earth is to be destroyed. (Matt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3:10).

Matt 24:35 "Heaven [not heaven of heavens where God abides] and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

2 Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the [physical] heavens will pass away with a roar **and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

- Some Greek manuscripts have "will be found" that if correct means "will be found [dissolved, destroyed]. The Greek "heurisko" means "to find, discover.
- The Greek "katabaino" means "to burn up, consume by fire.
- The context indicates this earth and universe will be utterly destroyed [burned up].

2 Pet 3:11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Pet 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

2) It is evident our eternal home is not this world or the material universe.

3) Peter's language affirms the utter destruction of the earth.

4) The earth exists for physical beings and things - not for those who do not have physical bodies.

5) When Jesus comes, believers will cease to be physical beings. (1 Cor. 15:49-53).

1 Cor 15:49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

1 Cor 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Cor 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

1 Cor 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Cor 15:53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

6) Believers are promised to be “like Him.” This means we will not have a physical body in heaven. (1 Cor. 15:50).

c. Some are confused about the meaning of Ecclesiastes 1:4.

Ecc 1:4 A generation goes and a generation comes, But the earth remains forever.

1) Solomon’s point is that a generation of people is temporary, but the earth continues on.

2) It has been about 3,000 years since Solomon penned these words, but the world continues on.

3) It will continue until Jesus comes again which could be today or many years in the future.

d. We are “aliens and strangers” on the earth. (1 Pet. 2:11; Heb. 11:13-16).

1 Pet 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Heb 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

Heb 11:14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

Heb 11:15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that {country} from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

Heb 11:16 But as it is, they desire a better {country,} that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

1) The earth is not our home - “we are just passing through.”

2) Like the patriarchs of old and Christians throughout the ages, we are looking for a “heavenly” city. (Heb. 11:16).

c. At Christ’s coming we will ascend to meet Jesus in the air. (1 Thess. 4:13-17).

1 Thess 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

1 Thess 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.

1 Thess 4:15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of {the} archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thess 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1) When Jesus comes, we will ascend “to meet the Lord in the air.”

- Nothing is said about remaining on the earth nor returning to the earth.
- The earth is not our home and it is destined for utter destruction.

2) “We shall always be with the Lord.” See Matt. 25:46

d. Heaven is our home. (Lk. 10:20; Matt. 6:19-21; Jn. 14:1-3; Phil. 3:20).

Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."

Matt 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

Matt 6:20 "But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

Matt 6:21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 "**If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, {there} you may be also.**"

Phil 3:20 **For our citizenship is in heaven**, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

e. The meek enjoy God’s blessings now and later eternal life. (Mk. 10:29-31).

Mark 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,

Mark 10:30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

Conclusion.

1. The fourth beatitude will pronounce a blessing on those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness.”
2. Attention will be given to meaning of the words “hunger and thirst.”
 - a. How hungry do we get when we go a day or two without food?
 - b. How intense can the desire for food and water become?
3. Much attention will be given to the meaning of “righteousness” and its importance.

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