**The Inside Out**, **Kingdom of God: The Sermon on the Mount Matt. 5-7**

***Upside Down***

**Matthew 5:5**

**Previous Beatitudes:**

1. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall or will be comforted

**This Week’s Beatitude:**

1. “Blessed are the meek/humble/surrendered, for they shall inherit the earth.”

**Commentary:**

* Here Jesus is quoting **Psalm 37:11**, which uses the same Hebrew word for humble that we see in in Isiah 61:1, which is quoted in the first Beatitude. So this Beatitude has a similar meaning (but still a little different): “Meek” or I prefer “Humble” or “Surrendered” in the sense of surrendered to God, and socially and economically poor or powerless. If we are poor and surrendered to God, we are blessed, because in Christ God is delivering us, and we shall inherit the earth.

**Another Paradox:**

* This parable is strange and is for sure a surprise because it is completely the opposite of what the world teaches and how mankind thinks. ***World conquest***—possession of the whole universe—given to the meek of all people! **The world** thinks in terms of ***strength*** and ***power***, of ***ability***, ***self-assurance*** and ***aggressiveness***. That is the world’s idea of conquest and possession. The more you assert yourself and express yourself, the more you organize and manifest your powers and ability, the more likely you are to succeed.
* **This would be particularly strange for the Jewish audience** because they had the idea of the kingdom coming and the messiah’s coming as being an event and a King who could change Israel (God’s people) from being oppressed by Rome to being a conquering people. **They viewed the coming kingdom as primarily a materialistic change and a military victory.**
* It is also a little strange to us; some of the issue is what the word “Meek” means in English. In English, the word **‘meek’** has come to be about the same as ***‘submissive’*** almost ***‘weak’*** or ***‘harmless’***or *‘****spiritless.’***A meek person is thought of as a ***doormat*** on which others wipe their feet and who is timid and fears what others will think. But this is not what the word “meek” meant in this beatitude. In fact, **nothing could be more foreign to the biblical use of the word.** It is used in particular to describe two people in scripture—**Moses** (Numbers 12:3) and **Jesus** (Matthew 11:29).
  + Moses was a person who defied the might of Egypt.
  + Jesus, well He is God, but also wouldn’t be frightened by even all the power of Rome, or even the torturous cross.

**Big Point:** Both of them showed signs of fearless strength, but most importantly showed a surrendered will to the will of God. Their lives demonstrate this Beatitude.

**Let’s explore “Meekness” further?**

**Meekness Seen in Psalm 37:5-11**

* Since Psalm 37:11 “(the meek shall possess the land, and delight themselves in abundant peace)” is a quotation of Matthew 5:5, let’s see what meekness means in this Psalm.

**Verses 9 & 11:**

**1). The Meek are those who wait on the Lord**

* Notice **the parallel** between verse 11 and verse 9. Verse 11 says, "The meek shall possess the land." Verse 9b says, "Those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land." So first let us conclude that the meek are people who wait for the Lord.

**Verses 5-8:** These versus help explain what it means to wait for the Lord.

**2). They Trust in God**

* Meek people begin by trusting God (vs 5b). They believe that he will work for them and vindicate them when others oppose them. **Biblical meekness is rooted in the deep confidence that God is for you and not against you**.

**3). They Commit Their Way to God**

* The Hebrew word for "commit" means literally to "roll" (vs. 5a). **Meek people have discovered that God is trustworthy**, and so they roll their "way"—their life, their problems, their relationships, their health, their fears, their frustrations—they roll all this onto the Lord. **They admit that they are insufficient to cope with the complexities and pressures and obstacles of life**, and they trust that God is able and willing to sustain them and guide them and protect them.

**4). They Are Quiet before God and Wait for Him**

* According to verse 7a, **meek people are quiet or still before the Lord and wait patiently** for him. The people seem to be *free of frenzy*. They have a kind of *steady calm* that comes from *knowing that God is omnipotent* (all powerful), that he has their affairs under his control, and that he is gracious and will work things out for the best. Meek people have a quiet steadiness about their lives in the midst of disorder.

**5). They Don't Fret over the Wicked**

* They do not fret (vs 7b) themselves over the wicked who prosper, and refrain from anger (vs 8). Their life, activities, and even families are in God's sovereign hands.

**The Meekness of Moses**

**Read Numbers 12:1-4:**

* What happens in the following verses is that the Lord rebukes Miriam and Aaron and vindicates his servant Moses. This conflict was primarily about them challenging Moses’ supreme authority (see Num.12:2) that was given or entrusted unto him by God.
* The point of calling Moses meek right here, in this context, is that meekness means committing your cause to God and not needing to defend yourself. Just where we would expect the text to tell us what Moses said to justify himself against the charge of Miriam and Aaron, the text says he was the meekest man on the earth. Moses doesn’t say a word. Instead he waits patiently for the Lord.

**6). Meekness Refrains from Revenge and Defensiveness**

* Meekness is **leaving vindication with God**, and **the power to absorb adversity and criticism without lashing back**.

**James 1:19-21: Receiving the Word with Meekness**

**Two Kinds of People**

**Not Meek:** Not willing to listen to others (especially authorities), quick to speak, quick to anger, not receptive to the Word of God…

**Meek:** Slow to speak, quick to listen, realizes their way may not be right, a person who is eager to listen and learn, slow to anger, and a person who receives God’s Word with meekness (humility)…

**7). Meekness is Teachable**

* To receive the Word with meekness means that **we don’t have a resistant, hostile spirit when we are being taught**. It is one who wants to listen and learn.

**Finally: They shall inherit the Earth**

* What would this last part of the Beatitude mean to the disciples who heard it? Maybe Jesus wants the promise to give them strength to continue in their meekness. This is the way the promise works in Matt. 5:12: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you." In other words, the promise of great reward gives the disciples strength to endure persecution with joy.
* **So I think the promise that the meek shall inherit the earth is intended by the Lord to give us the strength to endure in meekness when the natural inclination, of our sinful nature, would be to defend ourselves or retaliate or give way to fretful anger.**

**Beatitude in a Nutshell:** *blessed are those who are surrendered to God, for they shall inherit the earth.”*