

Sermon on the Mount

(Blessed are the gentle/meek) Part 1

Greek word for used is *praus*, meaning gentleness, meekness, humility.

- This word also has meaning in antiquity as used to describe the process of taming, breaking, and bringing a wild horse to submission. If a wild horse was trained and broken to obey its owner, the horse would have been said to have been meeked. The horse would maintain its strength, but it would be under control and command of its owner and its only focus now was to please him.
- The beatitudes are building of each other, and one cannot be meek unless they are first poor in spirit and mourn over their sin. Once they realize who they are in comparison to God, they will be meek as they are in submission and obedience to God and demonstrate this by their gentleness and meekness toward others.
- Meekness is not weakness, but rather strength that is controlled. It takes strength to be gentle. Humility is linked to meekness. The one who is meek relies on God for all things as they know they have nothing in themselves.
- This is the first beatitude that not only focuses on oneself, but on actions and attitude toward others.

Being meek/gentle is best broken into two categories: 1.) submission to God. 2.) gentleness/meekness toward others.

Meekness is not an optional characteristic, but rather a characteristic of every believer. Meekness is not to be confused with quietness or shyness as these are physical and nature characteristics. Being meek is not in our fallen nature, but only brought about by regeneration. Meekness belongs only to the blessed one (Christian) as it is brought about by exclusively by the Holy Spirit.

- **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Opposite from the world's thought on conquest of the land.

The Jews were under the rule and oppression of the Romans, and they believed that the Messiah would come in force and conquer the Romans. The "normal" thought of conquest was that only the strong survive and those with the strongest, bravest men would conquer the land and rule. However, Jesus delivers what would have shocked the minds of those who were listening. Jesus says the opposite, by the world's standards, on who should inherit the land: the gentle and meek. Many did not believe this statement and wanted the "tough of the tough" to lead them to freedom. Even His disciples questioned and doubted this as was the case in **Matthew 16:21-23** when he could not believe that the Messiah would have to suffer. When the Jews who had heard this message from Jesus at the sermon on the mount about conquest of the meek and gentle, saw Him being mocked, beaten, and condemned they wanted Barabbas to be released rather than Jesus since His message appeared to as crazy to them then as it did when they first heard it on the sermon on the mount. Barabbas was more like themselves as they despised Jesus and His message of meekness and gentleness conquering the world. However, His kingdom is made up of those who are meek and they will inherit the earth.

Submission to God

The idea of meekness is seen in the use of this word for breaking in and bringing wild horses into submission to obey their master. The meek person is one who is poor in spirit and has mourned and repented over their sin. The meek person understands how spiritually bankrupt they are and who they are in comparison to the Holy God. The meek are in submission to the authority of God and submits to Him in all aspects. They are considered gentle in the sense that like the wild horse that is tamed, the meek person is now not running wild, but under the authority of God to always obey Him. The meek person submits to the rod of God, the punishment of God, the hardships of God, the leading of God, the commands of God, and the Scriptures of God. The meek person is in submission to the Word of God and does not bring biases or feelings to texts, but rather submits to the Words of the living God. The meek person does not come to God expecting things, but rather is humble knowing they are not worthy of anything. The meek person is thankful in all things. The meek person is accepting and in submission of the hard, difficult, and painful things from God as they know who they are as lowly unworthy creatures before God. The meek person does not demand things of God or rebuke Him for the things in their life. Meekness is demonstrated with humility. The meek person knows they deserve nothing and rest in submission to the Master without question, fighting, or resistance. The meek person has obedience the God as their top priority even if it brings them death. The meek person is the one who is ready to take up their cross even unto death and has found life because they have died to themselves.

Jesus is an example of meekness

Jesus demonstrated meekness and humility in His incarnation, humble lowly birth, His entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, and His death.

- **Phil 2:5-8** Have this attitude ^[a]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be ^[b]grasped, ⁷ but ^[c]emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death ^[d]on a cross.

God the Father loved the world by sending His only begotten Son and the Son and the Son came to do the will of the Father even unto the point of death. We see this most clearly in the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- **Matthew 6:9-10** “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
- **John 17:1-5** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ² even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to ^[a]all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. ³ This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I glorified You on the earth, ^[b]having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
- **Matthew 26: 42** He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.”
- **Luke 23:44-46** It was now about ^[a]the sixth hour, and darkness ^[a]fell over the whole land until ^[b]the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ ^[c]because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn ^[d]in two. ⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last.

Christ our example:

- **1 John 2:6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.
- **Phil 2: 5-11** Have this attitude ^[a]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be ^[b]grasped, ⁷ but ^[c]emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death ^[d]on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- **Matthew 11:29** “Come to Me, all ^[a]who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is ^[aa]easy and My burden is light.”

True meekness is found in testing. This is where meekness or submission to God is the most sincere. The meek person is humble, gentle, and in submission to God and that results in the meek person saying, “not my will, but yours be done.”

Inherit the earth

When someone receives an inheritance, they did not work for it, but rather receive the inheritance as a gift. The blessed ones are the children of God, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ. The meek will inherit the new Heaven and new earth with God by our adoptions as sons of God.

- **Romans 8:16-17** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*
- **Rev 22:3-5** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; ⁴ they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will no longer be *any* night; and they ^[d]will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.
- **2 Peter 3:13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*
- *The meek/gentle are under submission and the authority of God and they will inherit the earth to be with Him forever, how blessed is that!*

Examples of people who were gentle meek

- Moses ([Exodus 12:1-15](#))
- Jesus ([Matthew 11:29](#)) ([Matthew 21:12-17](#)) (2 Corinthians 10:1)(Phil 2:5-8)
 - Turned over tables, brought woes to the Pharisees.
 - Had compassion on the poor and lowly.

The person who is meek does not go around trying to look for a fight or provoke people.

- [Phil 2:5-8](#)

In his Discourse on Meekness, Matthew Henry describes meekness as a kind of self-control. True, biblical meekness is a self-control of strength that makes us lambs in our own causes and lions for the cause of Christ. Jesus personified this as He was the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb of God who was slain. One who is meek turns their attention from themselves to God first, then in how they treat others.

Contrary to what many may think, meekness is not weakness. Both in [Psalm 37](#) and in the Beatitudes, meekness is humility and submission to God. Again, with [Psalm 37](#) in view, the wicked seek gain at all cost. In verse 14, they “draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy,” and while they gain things that will bring temporary pleasure, only the meek, those who delight in the Lord (v. 4), will inherit the earth.