



Is this beatitude opposed to what the world thinks about power? Can you think of people who modelled this beatitude?



Matthew 5:5 ‘Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.’



The mark of meekness and humility is a distinctive and unique characteristic of the Christian.



### MEEKNESS—AN UPSIDE DOWN CHRISTIAN QUALITY

Read Matthew 5:5

1. ‘Blessed are the meek’ is the third beatitude. Is there a logical flow from ‘blessed are the poor in spirit’ to ‘blessed are those who mourn’ to ‘blessed are the meek.’ What is the logical flow and connection between them?
2. In Matthew 5:5 Jesus seems to be quoting Psalm 37, especially verses 1, 11, 22, 34. Compare with Isaiah 57:13, 60:21.
3. Continuing to look at Psalm 37.
  - A. How do the meek respond when evil seems to be triumphing?
  - B. What are the differences between the wicked and the righteous in terms of behavior and the consequences of their behavior?
  - C. What is David’s conclusion in verses 13—40 about evil and righteous people?
4. What attitude do the meek have:
  - A. Towards God?
  - B. Towards their current situation?
5. How would you define ‘meekness’? (see also the sidebar)



“What, then, is meekness? Meekness is essentially a true view of oneself, expressing itself in attitude and conduct with respect to others. It is therefore two things. It is my attitude towards myself, and it is an expression of that in my relationship to others. You see how inevitably it follows being ‘poor in spirit’ and ‘mourning’. A man can never be meek unless he is poor in spirit. A man can never be meek unless he has seen himself as a vile sinner. These other things must come first. But when I have that true view of myself in terms of poverty of spirit, and mourning because of my sinfulness, I am led on to see that there must be an absence of pride. The meek man is not proud of himself, he does not in any sense glory in himself. He feels that there is nothing in himself of which he can boast. It also means that he does not assert himself. You see, it is a negation of the popular psychology of the day which says ‘assert yourself, express your personality’. The man who is meek does not want to do so; he is so ashamed of it. The meek man likewise does not demand anything for himself. He does not take all of his rights as claims. He does not make demands for his position, his privileges, his possessions, his status in life. No, he is like the man depicted by Paul in Philippians 2:5 ‘Have this mind among yourselves, which is your’s in Christ Jesus’. Christ did not assert that right to equality with God; He deliberately did not. And that is the point to which you and I have come.....the meek is not even sensitive about himself. He is not watching himself and his own interests. (continued)

## THE INHERITANCE OF THE MEEK

6. In the Old Testament the Promised Land was the inheritance following from God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1—3. What is the Christian's inheritance? Romans 8:17; Philippians 3:20, Ephesians 1:18, 1 Corinthians 3: 21-23?
7. Why can a Christian receive such an inheritance? And can they be certain of receiving it? Why or why not? 1 Peter 1: 1—5



THINK &  
APPLY

### THINK AND APPLY

8. In Psalms 37 and 73 the Psalmist looks at the world and concludes that the evil prosper and the godly don't. Do you ever think like this?
9. Where does the Christian get the power and strength to live like this? See Philippians 2: 5—11, 1 Peter 2: 21—25, Romans 12:19-21, Luke 14:11.



PRAYER

Praise God for the challenges raised by God's Word through this study.

Praying for others in your group:



COMING UP



FAMILY  
DISCUSSION

How does this passage apply to our daily life?

Lloyd-Jones p 73 cont'd. "So we are not on the defensive, all that is gone. The man who is truly meek never pities himself, he is never sorry for himself. ....to be meek, in other words, means that you have finished with yourself altogether, and you come to see you have no rights or deserts at all. You come to realize that nobody can harm you.....When a man truly sees himself, he knows nobody can say anything about him that is too bad. ...the man who is truly meek is one who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do. This is its essential quality.

**PRAISE GOD** for the humility and meekness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**CONFESS** that we are too self-interested and sensitive about ourselves.

**ASK GOD** for a right view of ourselves, God and those around us.

### PRAY ALSO

For our witness in this city, whether at work, university, in the community.



READ AHEAD

For next week's study read Matthew 5:6