

Yielding to God

Matthew 5:5

I. "Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth."

- A. What does it mean to be meek?
 - 1. It does not mean to be weak. It is a character strength.
 - 2. The word in Greek can mean gentle and humble.
 - (a) But I don't think that is the emphasis here.
- B. The blessing is the earth as one's inheritance.
 - 1. A new earth is the inheritance of God's children.
 - (a) Only believers will receive that inheritance.
 - (b) Yet some of the most gentle people I know are not believers.
 - (c) Gandhi was a gentle man, but he rejected Jesus.
 - (d) So, gentleness alone does not qualify us for eternal life.
- C. In ancient Greece, a horse that was broken was "meek."
 - 1. Similarly, in 19th Century America, a team of horses was "meek."
 - 2. Both are examples of power under control.
 - (a) Power that has been submitted to a higher authority.
- D. The fall of humanity, in Genesis, was a rebellion.
 - 1. God is our Maker, our Owner, our King.
 - (a) But the decision to sin was rejecting God's authority.
 - (b) The temptation was "you will be like God."
 - 2. Rejection of God as king is a human pattern.
 - (a) Israel did it.
 - (b) So do we.
 - (c) A definition of sin: us trying to live independently of God.
- E. Repentance is part of salvation (Luke 24:47; Acts 11:18).
 - 1. The fall was stepping out from under God's authority.
 - (a) Repentance is the reverse of that.
 - (b) I place myself under God's authority.
 - (c) I turn from my ways to God's ways.
 - 2. Meekness is having a submissive spirit to God.
 - (a) Salvation requires submission to Christ as Lord.
 - (b) We must surrender control to him.
 - 3. When my views and practices contradict Scripture, what do I do?
 - (a) A meek person chooses to follow Christ, to submit to him.
 - 4. Meekness is not just needed for salvation.
 - (a) It is how we are to respond to the Holy Spirit.

(b) It is how we grow. We become like Jesus by being teachable.

II. The meek person submits to God because he trusts in God.

- A. People have always struggled with this.
 - 1. Is God trustworthy? (Is he good?)
 - 2. Does he want good for me? (Does he love me?)
 - 3. Is living life his way good for me? (Am I safe?)
- B. Satan attacked Adam and Eve around these issues.
 - 1. He said (paraphrase):
 - (a) God is not good.
 - (b) He doesn't want good for you.
 - (c) You can't trust him.
 - (d) You better take control, take matters into your own hands.
 - 2. Of course, that was all slander. None of it was true.
 - (a) But we still struggle with it.
- C. The wise person has learned that submission to God is good and good for us, because God is good!
 - 1. Proverbs is a book of wisdom.
 - 2. Wisdom is the understanding of how life works, enabling us to make good decisions, that are beneficial to us.
 - 3. One of the main themes of Proverbs is receiving and applying instruction; being teachable.
 - (a) Listen to the first verse in Proverbs, chapters 2-5. (Proverbs 2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 5:1)
 - (b) There is a pattern that is like the beatitudes.
 - (c) First, an exhortation to listen, to accept, to receive.
 - (d) Followed by the assurance of good results in life.
 - 4. Think of Proverbs in the context of the Bible.
 - (a) God is the one who instructs us on how to live.
 - (b) He calls us to obey.
 - (c) His Spirit leads us and calls us to yield, to be meek.
 - (d) God does this for our good, that we may live!

III. What is our motivation to be meek and yield to God's leading?

- A. Yes, because God is good and wants good for us.
 - 1. But God's goodness needs to be more than just a theological concept.
 - 2. We need to have experienced the goodness of God!
 - (a) We are exhorted to, "Taste and see that the Lord is good!"
 - (b) We need to experience the reality of God's love.
 - (c) That happens when we seek him and encounter him.
 - 3. We will learn more as we look at the next beatitude.
 - 4. Experiencing God makes us hungry for more, and we yield because of that hunger. More of you, O God!