

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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!