

“THE KEYS TO A BLESSED LIFE”

Big Idea . . . Part 4: Blessedness are the Meek (Matt. 5:5)

INTRO: German philosopher, Nietzsche, said when we look at the ethic of Jesus in the B, “we are listening to the most seductive lie history has ever heard.” He stated the 3rd B, “Assert yourself; it is the arrogant who take over the earth.” What is precious in God’s sight is often despised by the world. Perhaps there’s no place where this is more seen than in this B.

In the Christian life we live somewhere between being a dictator and a doormat. We are not to push our way and demand our rights. Nor are we to be spineless weaklings. The quality of character that enables us to find the middle ground is **MEEKNESS**.

The NT has 3 lists on Christian character (Col. 3:12ff; Ga. 5:22-23; and here). In all some 20 virtues are given. The *only* one in all three is meekness.

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MEEK? Meekness Defined

A. *INGREDIENTS* of meekness:

1. *English* dictionary “mild, compliant, deficient of courage, weak.” Viewed as weakness or timidity. No compliment in our world.
2. *Greek* word like a diamond with many facets. The main meaning carries the concept of *tameness* - power or strength under control. This word usually described one of three things: a soothing medicine, a cool breeze, and a broken colt. All have power in common. If left unchecked, damage occurs. *Meekness is yieldedness of power and will to God’s control*. It is power under His control. When able to retaliate, it doesn’t. The meek are submissive to His will. They are God-tamed, God-tempered, and God trained. They don’t overreact.

B. *ILLUSTRATIONS* of meekness in action:

Abraham and Lot (Gen. 13:7-9), Joseph and brothers (Gen. 37:3-4), David and Saul (1 Sam. 24), Moses (Num. 12:3), and Jesus (Matt. 11:29; 2 Cor. 10:1; 1 Pet. 2:21-23). All faced difficult and dangerous situations and came out victorious because they exercised power under control.

II. WHY IN THIS ORDER? “How does meekness fit with the other B’s?”

“Poor in spirit” emphasizes dependence *on* God, and “mourning” emphasizes brokenness *before* God, “meekness” emphasizes

submission *to* God. We now are *responsive* to God and surrender our wills to His. Blessedness is for people who are realistic about their sin, repentant over it, and responsive to God. The proud, self-sufficient, and unrepentant will be shut out.

III. WHAT IS THE RESULT? (“Will inherit the earth/land”)

- A. NOT become wealthy in worldly goods; nor escape life’s difficulties.
- B. “*What does it mean to ‘inherit the land’?*” Psalm 37 mentions inheritance several times. The conflict in this psalm is between the righteous and the wicked. How should I respond when the wicked prosper? Fret? Fight? No! Vv.3-7, meekly submit to God’s will by trusting, delighting, committing, resting and waiting - and the promised result in v.11. We don’t have to fret, fear, or fight. We meekly respond to our God who owns and controls all, even our situation. Inheritance comes when someone dies. It is something you simply receive. When Jesus died, I inherited! (1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 6:10). Meekness is secret to possessing everything - here and hereafter!

IV. AM I A MEEK PERSON?

- A. Is the power of my life consistently *surrendered to God’s control*? Or to my control? The meek have died to self.
- B. How do I generally respond to the *difficulties of life*? (Ps. 37) Worry about, fight back, get angry? Or accept, trust learn from?
- C. How do I *respond to the Word* of God? (Jam 1:21) Disobey it, argue with it? Or humbly and obediently accept it?
- D. How do I handle those *who disagree with me*? (2 Tim. 2:24-25) Defensive, quarrelsome, resentful? Or kindly and gently listen and instruct?

V. HOW CAN I BE MORE MEEK?

Gal. 5:22-23 Meekness is *a fruit to be cultivated*, usually in the difficult experiences of life. When we submit and learn, we cultivate meekness. When we don’t we develop hardness.

CONC: Matt. 5:5 says...Are you meek? Our world struggles with this B. People associate happiness with success, power, and materialism. Jesus’ Kingdom is for those who are meek. *Ogilvie tells the story*... There are two keys to blessedness in this B: *meek* (relinquish your rights and surrender to His control) and *inherit* (receive His riches). “Why so many unblessed people?” Won’t admit spiritual poverty, nor mourn over their sin, and *never* yield their will to God!