

## The Beatitudes: Growing in our walk with Jesus (Part 3)

### Recap :

***#1 Blessed are the poor in the spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of God. (Mathew 5:3)***  
**(Poor in spirit – Ptochos in Greek :- of one who crouches and cowers, hence beggarly, poor, destitute, spiritually poor, dependent, relates to "the pauper" rather than the mere peasant, the extreme opposite of the rich, helpless, powerless to accomplish an end)**

***#2 Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted. (Mathew 5:4)***  
**(Mourn – pentheo in Greek : The kind of grief which takes such a hold on a man that it cannot be hid. It is not just a sorrow which brings an ache to the heart; it is the sorrow which brings the unrestrainable tears to the eyes. Here it refers to the spiritual mourning that comes from a broken & contrite spirit)**

### **Beatitude # 3 - "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth". Mathew 5:5**

#### **This scripture is also found in Psalm 37:11**

Meekness is not being a doormat, lacking backbone, passive, bent down always, acting weak, feeble, quiet, timid, gullible, people taking advantage of you, like a mouse.

Jesus teaches us that it is a character quality we need to seek daily and diligently. It is mentioned throughout the New Testament, in the epistles & letters. It is thus significant and won't come unless we pursue it in our day-to-day life.

Another word for meekness is humility. Meekness does seem to be one expression of humility, one in which the attitude of submission to the will of God is expressed. Meekness and humility both share this quality. They are rooted in a submission to God as their basic essence.

#### **What does it mean to be meek ?**

MEEK, MEEKNESS. The OT noun "meekness" (·ănāwâ) comes from a verb stem meaning "to be bowed down, afflicted," which in turn comes to mean "to be lowly, submissive." The meek are the poor and afflicted persons who are often pushed aside by the rich or the leaders in a community.

The word translated “meek” in Matthew 5:5 is πραῖς, (transliterated as ‘praus’ and pronounced ‘prah-ooce’). It does indeed mean “meek” and “gentle,” but let us come to understand what those words mean biblically as opposed to our present day cultural context.

**The meaning of the word in Greek, is “power/ strength under control.”**

“The Greek word praus (prah-oos) comes from ancient military training. It was used to define a horse trained for battle. Wild stallions were brought down from the mountains and trained/broken for riding. Some were used to pull wagons, some were raced, and the best were trained for warfare.

They were no longer unruly or rebellious or out of control. The war horses – the ‘meek’ – would now charge into battle under control of their masters and maneuver according to his commands. They retained their fierce spirit, courage, and power, but were disciplined to respond to the slightest nudge or pressure of the rider’s leg. They could gallop into battle at 35 miles per hour and come to a sliding stop at a word. They were not frightened by arrows, spears, or torches. The horse to be made meek meant ‘to be taken from a state of wild rebellion and made completely loyal to, and dependent upon, one’s master.’

A meek horse was one that had kept its strength but placed it under the authority of the one who had tamed it.

Without the bridle, a stallion running loose in the pasture may be majestic, the symbol of raw power, but a stallion without a bridle is useless to man. The power that makes him so majestic must be harnessed in order for him to be useful.

***Matthew 5:5 teaches that when we are surrendered to Christ, bridled by Christ, and living under His control, then we are blessed.***

Biblical meekness is not weakness but rather refers to exercising God's strength under His control. It suggests controlled and bridled strength.

**Meekness in action:**

Jesus and Moses were two best examples in the Bible whose lives abounded with meekness.

1. **Moses**: Numbers 12: 1-16

***Numbers 12:3 says Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.***

Why would God choose a meek person to lead about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children? The entire number could be 2-3 million Israelites. Can you imagine how Moses would've handled problems & criticisms of such a large crowd? Moses was not a weak man. Meekness does not equal weakness. He needed strength under control as he was leading more than a million people out of Egypt into the Promised Land. He had to deal with them, lead them.

In the previous chapters, people complained. Now his own family began to criticize.

***Numbers 12 describes a conflict between Moses and his siblings, Aaron and Miriam, over Moses' marriage to a Cushite woman. They complained about Moses even though Moses was a very meek man. Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses, saying that God spoke through them as well as Moses. They seemed to be frustrated with Moses' special relationship with God and the authority God gave him over the Israelites.***

***God's intervention : God called the three siblings to the Tabernacle and spoke with them from a cloud. He reaffirmed Moses' role as God's representative and asked why they weren't afraid to speak against him. Miriam turned leprous and was exiled from the camp for seven days. Moses pleaded with God to forgive his siblings, and God told him he would heal Miriam after seven days.***

The Lord handled it. He will take over your case. Be still and know that I'm the Lord .

*In this particular situation, what Moses did was "roll it all" on God even though he had the potential to react. He knew God had called him to that leadership role. He knew God was just and would vindicate the truth of the situation. It doesn't mean he was being spineless. In such confrontations, it takes great strength and courage not to react in kind, not to play tit-for-tat, not to echo the attacker's spirit and words. Meekness is power under control.*

## 2. Jesus

Christ Himself is meek & lowly . ***Mathew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek (gentle) and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.***

So many times, He was mistreated. He had all the means to take revenge, react as He is the God of the universe, has all power under the heaven and the earth. He knew He was in the center of God's will and that plan was being worked out through Him. He stood there meekly and waited for God's time for vindication.

- Jesus demonstrated His servanthood, humility and gentleness as he washed the feet of His disciples on the night of His betrayal, including the feet of His betrayer, Judas (John 13).
- He told apostle Peter to put away his sword in the Garden of Gethsemane after he drew his sword and cut off the ear of one of the soldiers who were there to arrest Him. Instead of asking His disciples to defend him from the hands of his enemies, Christ shows an incredible act of strength under control as He commands Peter to put away his sword – and then heals the ear of Malchus the wounded High Priest's soldier (Mathew 26:50).

***Mathew 26: 51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"***

By our ungodly, unwise reactions, we might be messing with God's plans.

Jesus did this because He had already accepted the Father's will for Him to suffer and die as our substitutionary sacrifice on the Cross (Luke 22:41-44).

- Then, after Jesus' false arrest, accusations, trial and bogus sentencing by Pilate and the Jewish leaders, He still continued to show great restraint and gentleness towards His enemies.

***They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.***

***And they twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head.***

***They put a staff in His right hand and knelt down before Him to mock Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'***

***Then they spit on Him and took the staff and struck Him on the head repeatedly..."***

***(Matthew 27:27-30)*** No one truly has greater love, humility and self-control than Christ.

Meekness is displayed in Jesus Christ, who was the visible manifestation of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15-20). **The fact that the One who is fully worthy to be worshipped and obeyed, the One who is most powerful, and who owes humanity nothing, would choose to be gentle towards His enemies, then we, as broken people, must surely do the same.**

As the apostle Peter (who witnessed the scenes!) later said, ***"while being reviled He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats" (1 Peter 2:23). Instead, says Peter, Jesus "kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously."***

- **Riding on a donkey rather than a horse: Math 21:5** ***"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey.***

Meekness is power under control.

**How do we get this attitude? Practical application:** Provoking situations that demands your reaction/ or in situations where one is experiencing mistreatment or an injustice.

- **Vengeance belongs to the Lord, self-control** : But, where do we get this type of self-control and desire to be gentle towards all people, including our enemies who have done us wrong? The answer is found in God Himself. The power to control our strength under tumultuous circumstances and not seek vengeance or retaliation comes from the God who says vengeance is mine (Romans 12:19). Vindication belongs to God . You have the strength to react, speak – but remember meekness. Look at Christ's example – the One who holds the key of life and death , the creator of the universe – said I'm meek & lowly – acted in meekness.

According to the Bible, all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; we have all been enemies of God (Romans 3:23; Colossians 1:21). This means that gentleness shown by God towards humanity is not only a display of His strength under control, but it is also extension undeserved love and kindness towards us. Instead of wrath and

punishment, we receive mercy, forgiveness and reconciliation with God through the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross.

- **Surrender the case completely into His hands-** God will deal with it. You have the strength to react – power under control. The meek roll their lives, their cares, their reputations, your wounded ego onto the Lord and let the Lord worry about it all. LET GO OF OURSELVES AND LET GOD TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL.
- **Submit to the will of God / willingly surrendering your life** : Yielding, especially when you have every right not to, only because God says it will be alright!
- **God will give us the strength to bear provocation without being inflamed by it.**
- **Meek will be angry for rightful things** – divine anger towards things of God. Spiritual boldness that comes upon you. Jesus being zealous for the Father's house - drove out moneychangers. He made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor. This was for the sole reason that they were turning the Father's house into a marketplace.

### **Aspects of Meekness:**

- **Something that we are asked to learn:** *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matt 11:29*  
What does a yoke do – farmer putting yoke on animal – for direction. A yoke is a means of governing an animal and linking two or more animals for greater strength. It means giving Jesus control and letting Him direct our efforts; bringing under control our passions and desires. His yoke is light. Come under His yoke – nothing else.
- **To be sought after** - *Zeph 2:3 Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; Seek righteousness, seek meekness: It may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.*
- **Meekness is like an ornament we adorn with:** *But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 1 Peter 3:4*

**1 Peter 3:1** *In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over <sup>2</sup> by observing your pure and reverent lives.*

**3** *Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. **4** You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. **5** This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. They put their trust in God and accepted the authority of their husbands.*

- **Meekness also enjoys a high standing among the virtues stressed particularly in the epistles** (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12) ***Eph 4: 2 Walk worthy of your calling.... With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;***

**Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, Col 3:12**

***To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men. Titus 3:2*** (in regard to submitting to the government & officers- don't slander, avoid quarreling – God revealed His kindness to us who were once misled, not because of our righteousness but By His mercy- gave new life through Holy Spirit)

**When you are suffering/ persecuted: **15** *Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. **16** But do this in a gentle (with meekness) and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. **17** Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! (1 Peter 3:15)***

**1 Tim 6:11** *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

- **Brings riches, honour & life: Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor. Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart**

*of man is haughty, and before honour is humility. Proverbs 22: 4 The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.*

- **Other Blessings:**

*The meek shall eat and be satisfied: They shall praise the Lord that seek him: Your heart shall live forever. Psalms 22:26*

*Abundance of peace & inheritance: But the meek shall inherit the earth; And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Ps 37:11*

*The meek will He guide in judgment: And the meek will He teach his way. Ps 25:9*

*For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: He will beautify the meek with salvation. Psalms 149:4*

*The Lord lifts up the meek: The LORD lifts up the meek: he casts the wicked down to the ground. Psalms 147:6*

*The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, And the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 29:19*

*Righteous judgement : But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, And reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, And with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Isa 11:4*

- **Christ sent to proclaim good news to the meek & the humble: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; Because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to them that are bound; Isaiah 61:1**



- **Receive word with meekness: James 1:21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**
- **Joy- Isaiah 29:19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, And the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.**
- **One of the fruits of the Spirit: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5: 22,23**
- **Wisdom brings humility / meekness: Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom (humility that comes from wisdom). James 3:13**
- **As ministers/ leaders/ fellow believers – correcting or admonishing someone in meekness not by misusing your authority. 2 Cor 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:**

***“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”. Mathew 5:5***

Inherit – Jesus is teaching about these in the culture of power. Counter culture. This was a world that didn’t understand weakness. They knew only power, making people subjected to them. Jesus is turning their concepts, principles and thinking upside down.

Those who are meek will have the power that even transcends the power of Caesar. – Inherit the earth.