

Lesson 4: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"

The Spiritual Progression:

First the meek are poor in spirit, second they are mournful.

Also note: poor in spirit-----broken over own sin
 mourning-----broken over results of sin
 The meek-----maintains a Christian behavior in the midst of a sinful world

Truly the meek are Christ's followers, born from above whose behavior out pictures
The fruit of the Spirit.

What does it mean to be meek?

According to Webster: gentle, submissive, yielding, mild tempered

The greek word "praos": mild, gentle, soft

Sinclair Ferguson in his book "The Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom life in a fallen world" stated: "The word meekness is notoriously difficult to define. It is certainly not a lack of backbone. Rather, it is the humble strength that belongs to the man who has learned to submit to difficulties (experiences and people), knowing that in everything God is working for his good". He went on to say "meekness is especially important for those who are servants of Jesus Christ. There is probably no more beautiful quality in a Christian than meekness. It is a jewel polished by grace, but it is all too rare. Is that because so few of us know what it is to be poor in spirit and to mourn for our sins?"

It results from being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, and encountering the most Holy through the person of Jesus Christ

Also meekness as Jesus uses it is not a "natural" temperament, but a supernatural one born
By walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-25)

Let us look at our ultimate example, Jesus: 1 Peter 2:21-23

"Christ ...left us an example, that we should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again. When he suffered, he threatened not ; but committed himself to him that judges righteously."

Lastly, we can many times find encouraging examples in our own lives.

As Paul said in Colossians Ch.3:12, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, and meekness"

Read quote from Matthew Henry's commentary

"They will inherit the earth"

Psalm 89:34 "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing
that is gone out of my lips"

Proverbs 12:7 "The wicked are over thrown, and are not: but the
house of the Righteous shall stand"

Jesus is the first fruits of them who sleep, the first fruits of the new creation. So that indeed the meek shall inherit the earth, and delight themselves in the abundance of peace. There victory is to be in time and eternity.

Read Stott pg.44

Study Psalm 37: What do we see here in regards to the Meek and inheriting the earth?

What does it mean to inherit the earth?

In the present? -----	In the future?	-Proverbs 10:25	Psalm 104:30
		Proverbs 11:31	Rev. 21:24-26

We only inherit the earth because of Jesus, for He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He reigns now from heaven, for all power and authority is given to Him.

Iain Duguid said: “We look forward to the city that is to come, even while we do our best to see the Kingdom established here and now”

We men and women who belong to Jesus, are truly citizens of Heaven. Stationed here on earth to “occupy” till Christ's return. We are his vicegerents, truly joint heirs with Christ now and into the new heaven and the new earth.

Vicegerents of King Jesus: Rev.2:26-29 & 5:10 & 20:6 and Psalm 45:13-17
A “vicegerent”, one given the authority to exercise the functions of another; having delegated power

Paul says in 1 Corth 6:2-3 “...the saints shall judge (“rule”) the world. They shall even one day judge the Angels, so how much more should we not rule other things that pertain to this life”

Van Til said “ man is to subdue the world to the glory of God”

How we inherit the earth:

God fights for us: He destroys the wicked and their seed; (He also creates “wheat” out of tares)

Not by being covenant breakers, but covenant keepers

Our dominion in and of the earth is through righteousness and holiness, walking upright in the Spirit according to Gods Holy law/word.

We go forth with the Word of reconciliation as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corth 5:19,20)

We go forth as Christ's “meek” ones, as light and salt in the earth till Christ's triumphant return (1 Corth 15:24-26)

NOTE: the other “footstool” verses of Jesus current and will be complete reign from Heaven upon the earth (Isa 66:1; Ps 110:1; Mt 22:44; Acts 2:35; Heb 1:13, 2:8, 10:13; Eph 1:10,20& 22)

Jesus taught us to pray: “They will be done, thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven”.
To the Meek, who rest upon the promises of Jesus these words are not merely some spiritual lofty words.

How can I know if I'm meek?

Remember that it starts with a poor spirit, who mourns over their sinfulness

Do I embrace and respond humbly to Gods Law/Word?

Do I bless those around me by my presence?

Do I yield to criticism?

Do I admonish others gently?

Question to ponder:

Have there been any recent occasions when you became angry or were not gentle?
How could you have handled the situation better? What situations tend to make you that way?
Is it God's honor at stake or your own?

As a personal devotional, survey the wonderful Promise of our Lord through the prophet Isaiah.
Start with Isaiah ch.2:2, then 2:4; 9:7; 11:9; 14:26-27; 25:7-9; 27:6; 43:21; 45:22; 46:10; 49:6; 51:4-8;
52:10; 54:3&13-17; 55:11; 57:13; 58:11-12; 59:20-21; 60:1-5,12 & 14-22; 61:1-4; 62:12; 65:17-25;
66:12,18-19 & 23.