

Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus

A Discipleship Journey



Beatitudes

Week 31

Blessed are the Meek, for they shall inherit the Earth

This weekly material is offered to support our Discipleship Journey as we walk in the foot prints of Jesus.

We encourage you to use this material as a part of your daily prayer practice as follows:

- ❖ Begin with the Opening Prayer.
- ❖ Reflect on the Beatitude: *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*
- ❖ Pray with Psalm 37.
- ❖ Close with the Closing Prayer.

Let us pray for each other that we are transformed, as individuals and as community, by this Discipleship Journey.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we praise You for You are patient! You lovingly wait for us to come to You and long to listen to us. Forgive us for the times in our lives when we have not drawn close to You in prayer. In Your Scripture You tell us, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6 - 7) We claim this promise. Thank You for being so available to us. Help us to know that You long to meet with us in prayer.

Lord, teach us how to pray. Give us the desire to get to know You in prayer every day and the discipline to guard our prayer time when busyness tempts us away from You. Jesus, we trust in You. We make this prayer in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

Reflection:

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Of all the beatitudes, this one is probably the least understood. But the nativity story we celebrate each Christmas offers us a wonderful picture of the meaning of this beatitude.

To grasp the meaning of meekness, it might be easiest to look at its opposite. The villain in our Christmas story is King Herod. Knowing the Messiah would come from the House of David, King Herod tried to mold himself to fit the prophetic image of the Messiah: He took the title of King of the Jews, conquered the lands that belonged to Israel under the Davidic monarchy, and rebuilt the Second Temple. He held all the power, possessions, and prestige of his time. Filled with pride and vanity, he used his power to dominate over others and killed anyone who challenged his kingship. Power, possessions, and prestige were his idols.

To contrast Herod with Jesus; one merely has to look at the infant Jesus in the manger to understand meekness:

[[Jesus], being in the very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.] Philippians 2:6-7

Being “in the very nature of God”, Jesus had the right to do whatever He wanted; but, for our sake, He came in human likeness, born as an infant in a manger: exposed, vulnerable, completely dependent on us. *That* is the ultimate in meekness.

Meekness, then, is mildness, gentleness of spirit, humility toward God and toward others. It means putting our trust in God alone. Meekness is the disciple’s way of dealing with power, possessions, and prestige; it is having the *right* or the *power* to do something but refraining for the benefit of someone else. It is using possessions or prestige to help others rather than elevate ourselves.

The meek “shall inherit the earth”, for they will see God’s promises accomplished in their lives. In every situation, the meek put their hope in the Lord, and those who hope for Him shall possess the fullness of peace. Living out of meekness and humility: that is holiness.

Psalm 37 (Verses 1 - 7, 9)

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in Him, and He will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for Him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.

For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

Closing Prayer

*Show me, O Lord, Your mercy,
and delight my heart with it.
Let me find You whom I so longingly seek.*

*See, here is the man/woman
whom the robbers seized, mishandled,
and left half dead on the road to Jericho.*

*O kindhearted Samaritan come to my aid!
I am the sheep who wandered into the wilderness –
seek after me and bring me home again to Your fold.*

*Do with me what You will,
that I may stay by You all the days of my life
and praise You with all those
who are with You in heaven for all eternity.*

St. Jerome