

Refuge City Church — February 18, 2024
Gospel of Matthew: “Be Meek” (Matthew 5:5)

Introduction

- Jesus introduced us to the kingdom with the understanding that we need to recognize our spiritual bankruptcy and mourn the severity of our sin.
 - Our total dependence for life and salvation can only be found in God through Jesus.
- We now carry on in who we are to be, or what our attitude should be like.
- We are to be poor in spirit, mourn, and now...

[verse 5] “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

- “Meek” = gentle, humble, and self-controlled.
 - **Psalm 37:11**, “But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.”
 - If being humble is the inner position of a self-controlled spirit, meekness is the outer expression of that towards others.
 - Jesus tells us to bear fruit and so prove to be His disciples [gentleness & self-control]
 - This is the example of Christ.
 - **1 Peter 2:23**, “When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”
- This humility needs to be reflected to the world around us.
 - Our response to those who question, argue, or rail against what we believe [even the “normal” circumstances of life] will speak volumes to the transformative nature of Christ.
- We can learn a lot about the practical effect meekness can have on our lives. [**Psalm 37:11**, “But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.”]
 - The meek *commit* their ways to God. [**Psalm 37:5**, “Commit your way to the Lord...”]
 - Making a commitment to God says that I will show up in confidence that I have given myself over to His Lordship.
 - When we do so, God will deliver, rescue, and sustain us. We will find joy in Him. We will stand on solid ground. Our plans will be established on something/ someone greater than ourselves.
 - **QUOTE:** “Meek people have discovered that God is trustworthy, and so they roll...their business, their problems, their relationships, their health, their fears, their frustrations — they roll all this onto the Lord. They admit that they are insufficient to cope with the complexities and pressures and obstacles of life, and they trust that God is able and willing to sustain them and guide them and protect them.” [John Piper]
 - The meek *trust* in God. [**Psalm 37:5** “...trust in him, and he will act.”]
 - Trust is following, knowing that God will keep His promises. There is no reason to believe He won’t!
 - **Psalm 37:3**, “Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.”

- Meaning, your heart can be at rest because God is in control.
- Carry on with your business in faith, while at peace in your heart.
- The meek are *quiet* and *wait* on the Lord.
 - **Psalm 37:7**, “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!”
 - This doesn’t mean you become lazy and indifferent.
 - Quietness means God will instill in you a peace that doesn’t allow the volatility of this world keep you from life and purpose.
- The meek are not bothered/angered by those who do wrong.
 - **Psalm 37:8**, “Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.”
 - This is more about *your* response to the world than what the world does.
 - Simply put, unchecked anger & frustration lead to a lack of trust in the Lord because your focus is on the evil of humanity.
 - **CONSIDER:** Your response in the face of opposition and criticism. [defensive and vengeful]
- The meek absorb the word of God, and therefore care about the preeminent truth of God.
 - There is a necessity to be meek in order to receive the kingdom of God.
 - **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.”
 - Are you *teachable*? This demands a humble, submissive, self-controlled attitude... which goes against the very nature of humanity. [Your way or God’s way?]
- The meek care for others and their condition of faith
 - **Galatians 6:1**, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.”
 - Meekness understands the fallibility that we all have. That apart from the grace of God, we would be in the very same position.
- The meek shall inherit the earth?? Why?
 - God ordained we take possession of, and have dominion over all the earth. [Genesis 1:26]
 - As those who are poor in spirit, we’ve been granted the opportunity to live in the realm of our God.
 - As those who mourn over our sin, have an understanding that we are dependent upon God’s grace to carry on.
 - As ones who are meek, we now inherit/possess this kingdom to use it to the fullest extent.
 - This is the empowerment to *live*. Not in arrogance, anger, or fear.
 - Meekness allows us to take ownership of the many blessings of God.
 - What do you do with an inheritance? [use it] What have you inherited? [everything]