

Sermon Title: **“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK”**

Matthew 5:1-12

- EVERYTHING about these characteristics were counter cultural (it was the opposite of the Pharisees’ teaching)
- At 1st glance it’s easy to confuse Meek with Weak
 - “Weakness” = Lack of adequate strength; inability; being feeble (it’s the opposite of powerful)
 - “Meekness” = to accept without resistance the will & desire of another; being submissive (power under control)
 - Meekness is I CAN do something, I just CHOOSE NOT to
 - Meekness stems from complete trust in God’s goodness & control over the situation
 - It’s ONLY when we are truly broken (we recognize we are poor in spirit & we grieve over our own sin & others sin) that we completely surrender & entirely rely on God
- During Jesus’ time, meekness was NOT something to desire (slaves & servants would have been considered meek)
 - Jewish people were oppressed & utterly dominated – they could ONLY participate in things that the Roman Government permitted
 - It’s NOT BAD to submit to someone else’s authority
 - ALL of us have some type of authority over us
 - DON’T be MORE concerned about having to submit than you are over using this situation to point people to Jesus!
- Jesus was teaching that the proper response to the oppression the Jewish people were facing was humble, gentle, meekness
- In Scripture there are 2 people who are recognized for being meek:
 1. Moses
 - Notice Moses NEVER defended himself (God defended him)
 - God is the One who vindicates (we DON’T NEED to prove ourselves)
 - Take ownership where it’s appropriate & allow God room to work (DON’T be so hasty to defend yourself)
 - Even though Moses was unjustly wronged, he cried out to the Lord for Miriam’s healing (pretty awesome testimony)
 2. Jesus
 - At ANY moment, Jesus could have called for a legion of angels (that’s 50,000) to come & minister to Him
 - Jesus had access to EVERY necessary resource & He could have flexed His God muscle at ANY point, but He instead submitted Himself to His Heavenly Father
- “Inherit the Earth” could refer to Jesus’ earthly reign, but it will definitely occur during the New & Restored Earth