

Sermon on the Mount
Beatitudes – part 2
January 12, 2025

Blessed are the meek

In biblical terms, meekness is _____ under control.

Spiritually, the inheritance is not just a future promise but a present _____ for believers who live in accordance with God's will.

This inheritance is not limited to a specific _____ location but encompasses the new heaven and new earth promised in Revelation 21:1.

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

This phrase implies a _____, active longing, not a passive wish.

Righteousness refers to a life that is in alignment with God's _____ and character.

The assurance here is that those who earnestly seek righteousness will be _____ satisfied by God.

Blessed are the merciful

The merciful are those who're so affected by the _____ of others that they want to help alleviate them as much as they can but in a way that glorifies God in the process.

The phrase "for they" indicates a _____ correlation between the characteristic of being merciful and the resulting blessing.

Theologically, this _____ underscores the importance of mercy as a reflection of God's character and a requirement for His followers.

(NOTES)

Scripture read: Matt. 5:5; Matt. 11:29; Matt. 5:6; Psalm 42:1-2, 63:1-2; Matt. 5:7; Psalm 18:25-26; Micah 6:8

Scripture referenced: Gal. 5:23; Rev. 21:1; Rev. 19:21; Matt. 14:20; Ex. 21:24; Matt. 6:12;

HOMEWORK

1. Think of someone that you consider to be meek. Do they fit the biblical model or more of the world's concept of someone who never stands up for anything?
2. Go through all 3 Beatitudes discussed today and write out how each one fits into the concept of the poor in spirit having the Kingdom of God.
3. Describe your own desire for righteousness. Is it like an urgent, ever-present hunger or thirst? Why or why not?
4. Other than your salvation, what is the greatest act of mercy: you've received? you've given?

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I) Opening

A) Review

- 1) Jesus didn't just see the crowds physically but saw them with what?
- 2) In the Beatitudes, the term blessed indicates a permanent state of what?
- 3) Poor in spirit refers to those who recognize their what?
- 4) Mourning reflects a heart that is sensitive to what and its consequences?

B) Illustration

- 1) The world is interested in figuring out how to take learning and bring it into the life of a student.
- 2) Here are some ways to apply learning in real life:
 - (a) Identify your top strengths.
 - (b) Enlist a feedback partner to make the learning stick.
 - (c) Figure out your 'why'.
 - (d) Create metrics for learning.
 - (e) Supplement your learning with continuity training.
 - (f) Do some honest self-reflection.
 - (g) Establish an action plan and review your goals.
 - (h) Seek out experiential learning opportunities.
- 3) Today we're going to look at the next 3 Beatitudes
 - (a) Remember that they all in some form or fashion should take us back to the poor in spirit as the kingdom of God is theirs.

II) Blessed are the meek – **Matthew 5:5** (class)

A) The word "meek" comes from the Greek "praus," which is often misunderstood in modern contexts as weakness.

- 1) However, in biblical terms, meekness is a strength under control.
- 2) It refers to a humble and gentle attitude that is patient and submissive to God's will.
- 3) Historically, meekness was a valued trait in ancient cultures, often associated with wisdom and self-control.
- 4) Aristotle said that it is the character of one who has the passion of resentment under control, and who is therefore tranquil and untroubled.
- 5) In the scriptural context, meekness is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23) and is exemplified by Jesus Himself (**Matthew 11:29** class).
- 6) It involves trusting God to vindicate and protect rather than asserting oneself aggressively.
- 7) Meekness is patience in the reception of injuries.
 - (a) It's neither meanness nor a surrender of our rights, nor cowardice; but it's the opposite of sudden anger, of malice, of long-harbored vengeance.
 - (b) Remember when Paul insisted that the men who had thrown him into prison be the people who came and released him.
- 8) Meekness produces internal peace.

- 9) It's a proof of true greatness of soul as the meek are not moved by little insults and rather looks upon those who offer them with a type of pity.
 - (a) If a person is constantly thrown off his guard by every insult or injury thrown at them then they're at the mercy of anyone who wants to disturb them.
- B) for they will inherit.
 - 1) The phrase "will inherit" is derived from the Greek "kleronomeo," which means to receive an inheritance or to possess.
 - 2) Inheritance in biblical times was a significant concept, often associated with the passing down of land, wealth, and blessings from one generation to the next.
 - 3) Spiritually, this inheritance is not just a future promise but a present reality for believers who live in accordance with God's will.
 - 4) It signifies the assurance of God's promises and the eternal rewards that await those who are faithful (Kingdom of God).
- C) The term "earth" in Greek is "ge," which can refer to the physical land or the world as a whole.
 - 1) In the context of this verse, it echoes the Old Testament promise of the land to the Israelites, symbolizing God's provision and blessing.
 - 2) But now, Jesus expands this promise to include all who are meek, indicating a broader, more spiritual inheritance.
 - 3) This inheritance is not limited to a specific geographical location but encompasses the new heaven and new earth promised in Revelation 21:1.
 - 4) It reflects the ultimate fulfillment of God's kingdom, where His people will dwell in peace and righteousness.

III) Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – **Matthew 5:6** (class)

- A) The imagery of "hunger and thirst" is powerful, evoking the most basic and intense human needs.
 - 1) In the Greek, "peinaō" (to hunger) and "dipsaō" (to thirst) suggest a deep, driving desire.
 - 2) This phrase implies a continuous, active longing, not a passive wish.
 - 3) In the ancient world, where food and water were not as readily available as today, these terms would resonate deeply with Jesus' audience, highlighting the urgency and necessity of seeking righteousness with the same passion as one would seek food.
 - 4) This is not a new word picture in scripture as an ardent desire for anything is often described in this way: **Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1-2** (class).
- B) "For righteousness."
 - 1) "Righteousness" in Greek is "dikaiosynē," which encompasses both personal holiness and social justice not either or.
 - 2) It refers to a life that is in alignment with God's will and character.
 - (a) In the Jewish context, righteousness was closely tied to the law and covenant faithfulness.
 - (b) However, Jesus expands this concept to include an inner transformation that results in outward actions.
 - 3) This righteousness is not self-derived but is a gift from God, reflecting His nature and standards.
- C) The promise "they will be filled" uses the Greek word "chortazō," which means to be satisfied or to have one's fill.

- 1) This term was often used in the context of feeding and fattening of animals until they were completely satisfied.
 - (a) In Rev. 19:21, it's used of the filling of the birds with the flesh of God's enemies.
 - (b) It's also the word that is used of the filling of the 5,000 in Matt. 14:20.
- 2) The assurance here is that those who earnestly seek righteousness will be completely satisfied by God.
 - (a) This filling is both a present reality and a future hope, pointing to the ultimate fulfillment in God's kingdom.
 - (b) It suggests a divine provision that meets the deepest needs of the human soul, offering a satisfaction that the world cannot provide.
- D) Class question – How do you see this as tying into the poor in spirit who have the Kingdom of God?

IV) Blessed are the merciful – **Matthew 5:7** (class)

- A) The term "merciful" is derived from the Greek word "eleēmōn," which means to show compassion or forgiveness to someone, especially when it is within one's power to punish or harm.
 - 1) In the historical and cultural context of Jesus' time, mercy was a radical concept, often seen as a weakness in a society that valued justice and retribution (see eye for an eye Ex. 21:24).
 - 2) But now, Jesus suddenly elevates mercy as a divine attribute, reflecting God's own nature.
 - 3) Scripturally, mercy is a recurring theme, as seen in God's dealings with Israel and in the teachings of Jesus, who often emphasized forgiveness and compassion over strict adherence to the law.
 - 4) The merciful are those who're so affected by the sufferings of others that they want to help alleviate them as much as they can but in a way that glorifies God in the process.
 - 5) This all reflects how God is – **Psalms 18:25-26** (me).
 - 6) Mercy is an element of true righteousness (that we're to hunger and thirst after).
 - 7) Remember what God said in **Micah 6:8** (class).
 - 8) The Dutch theologian Erasmus wrote that the merciful are those “who, through brotherly love, account another person's misery their own; who weep over the calamities of other; who, out of their own property, feed the hungry and clothe the naked; who admonish those that are in error, inform the ignorant, pardon the offending; and who, in short, use their utmost endeavors to relieve and comfort others.”
- B) The phrase "for they" indicates a direct correlation between the characteristic of being merciful and the resulting blessing.
 - 1) It suggests a cause-and-effect relationship, where the practice of mercy leads to a specific divine response.
 - 2) This reflects a broader biblical principle that God rewards those who embody His attributes and live according to His commandments.
 - 3) God has told you that He wants to bless you and what He expects from you.
- C) “...will be shown mercy.”
 - 1) The promise "will be shown mercy" is a future passive construction in Greek, indicating that the merciful will receive mercy from God.

- 2) This reflects the biblical principle of reciprocity found throughout Scripture, such as in the Lord's Prayer, where Jesus teaches, "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).
 - 3) Theologically, this promise underscores the importance of mercy as a reflection of God's character and a requirement for His followers.
 - 4) It assures believers that their acts of mercy will not go unnoticed by God and that they will experience His mercy in their own lives, both now and in the eschatological future.
- D) The Pharisee's of Jesus' time were lacking in this type of righteousness as are many religious rule followers of our time.
- 1) In Jesus' time and with some people now, their sympathy is killed by the theory that someone's suffering was an indication of some sin.
 - 2) This theory brings out a pitiless type of 'righteousness' where someone thinks that the suffering person is "getting what they've earned."
 - 3) But God has called on us to be His hands and feet and show His mercy, the same mercy that brought us into a relationship with Him instead of just destroying us on the spot.
- E) God's statement is that you will receive mercy.