

"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK"

(Matthew 5:5)

INTRODUCTION - Today's world says, "The meek get run over."

1. WHAT THE BEATITUDE "MEEKNESS" IS NOT

Jesus is not speaking of mousey or "meek as a mouse;"
not the comic-strip character Mr. Casper Milquetoast;
not the spineless character who is afraid of his own shadow;
not the one who is void of manly vigor and courage.

2. WHAT IS "MEEK" IN CHARACTER

Greek dictionary: not easily provoked or irritated; patient under injuries; not vain.

O.T. or Hebrew ancestry of the word: one who accepts the providence of God;
does not grow resentful and bitter about things life brings to him;
believes God will bring about eternal good.
(Psalm 25:9, 37:9, 37:11, 147:6, 149:4)

Greek illustrations: an animal which has been tamed, domesticated, and
which is subject to control. Aristotle described it as the mean between
two extremes: happy medium between excessive anger and excessive non-anger.
The virtue of one who acts with gentleness when he has the power to act
with stern severity.

3. EXAMPLES

Moses: (Numbers 12:3) "Moses was very humble ("meek")."
(Exodus 5:1) stands before Pharaoh saying, "Let my people go."
(Exodus 14:13) at the Red Sea saying, "Fear not"

Jesus: (Matthew 11:28-30) "For I am gentle ("meek") and lowly in heart"
(Mark 3:5-6; Mark 11:15-17; Matthew 23:13-29; 1 Peter 2:23)

Us: (Titus 3:1-2) "... showing all humility ("meekness") to all men."

4. THE BLESSING OF "THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH"

It is not physical land owner-ship; rather, we know how to enjoy our earthly
portion here (whether great or small); we know how to live peaceably in
this land, contented, with hope of heaven. We sing: Here We Are But
Straying Pilgrims and This World Is Not My Home

(James 1:21) "receive with meekness the implanted word,
which is able to save your souls."