

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

MATTHEW 5:5 & PSALMS 37

Text: Matthew 5:5

Matthew 5:5

⁵ Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Introduction:

To many people a meek person has no backbone. To them a meek person lets everybody run over them and stands up for nothing.

That is not what Jesus was saying when he said, "Blessed are the meek.

Again notice the progression. One will not be the Christian they should be until they become poor in spirit - seeing themselves as God sees them.

After one sees themselves as God sees them it will result in mourning. Those that mourn will be comforted.

After one sees themselves as God sees them and is comforted by God, they will be meek.

A meek person can be very powerful but very much in control.

The Lord was meek but certainly not weak.

We also note that meekness is one of the fruit of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

All of the previous Beatitudes were original; however this Beatitude was given in Psalms 37.

Psalm 37 comes from the pen of King David when he is an old man, v. 25.

Psalms 37:25

²⁵ I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Through his years, he endured many difficult circumstances that caused his heart to fear. However, through those adversities David learned some lessons about God and his faithfulness that gave him peace while he waited to leave this world. You and I have the benefit of reaping a helpful harvest from the lessons King David learned the hard way.

Notice here the steps God uses to develop meekness in our lives.

1. THE MEEK PERSON'S DISCOVERY (Ps. 37:1-2)

Psalms 37:1-2

¹Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

It may seem on the surface that the wicked man is prospering and that he is enjoying life to the full, while the righteous man suffers. This can cause the righteous man to "fret". This word means, "to be hot, furious, to become angry, to be kindled."

When the righteous man takes the time to think life through, it becomes quickly obvious who had the advantage in life. The wicked man is like the grass, they are here for a time, then they are cut off forever! Their end is Hell! On the other hand, the righteous man knows that even though life gets tough sometimes, when it ends, he will be in Heaven with the Lord.

2. THE MEEK PERSON'S DWELLING (Ps. 37:3)

Psalms 37:3

³Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so* shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Rather than envying the wicked man, which might cause us to become like him, David says we are to trust

the Lord and do good. When we do, we can be confident that God will take care of us.

This had been David's experience. Even when he was sorely afflicted by his adversaries, he never missed a meal, Psa. 37:25.

Psalms 37:25

²⁵ I have been young, and *now* am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

The child of God who learns to live in absolute confidence in His Lord will also find that he will dwell in a place of safety, assurance and provision, Matt. 6:25-34.

Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto

you. ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

3. THE MEEK PERSON'S DELIGHT (PS. 37:4)

Psalms 37:4

⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Instead of delighting in the things that please the flesh, the meek man is called upon to find his ultimate source of joy in the Lord. The wicked man seeks his pleasure in the sins of the flesh and all that the world can provide. He finds in the end that these things change and can never satisfy the heart! The righteous man finds his source of pleasure in the Lord.

One of the greatest mistakes we make as children of God when there are problems in our life is to focus on the problem instead of the God behind the problem. As long as we concentrate on all that is wrong in our lives, we are unable to concentrate on the glory of God and upon His purpose for us in life. Our true source of happiness must rise above the circumstances and situations of life and it must come to rest in no other place but God Himself.

4. THE MEEK PERSON'S DEPENDENCE (PS. 37:5-6)

Psalms 37:5-6

⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass. ⁶ And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

While the wicked seem to prosper, the righteous also have a promise for help in this life. We are told to "*commit*" our way unto the Lord.

The word "*commit*" is an interesting one.

It means "*to roll onto*".

The idea is that instead of worrying and fretting, the meek man should learn to cast his burdens on the Lord and trust Him to take care of matters in His way and at His time.

Just as an additional thought, we need to remember that we can worry and fret all we want too, but it will not speed up the Lord one bit! He has a plan and He has a timing. Our duty is to trust Him and He will "*bring it to pass*", that is, He will take care of it, in His own time!

5. THE MEEK PERSON'S DISCIPLINE (PS 37:7)

Psalms 37:7

⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Instead of allowing the antics and the sins of the wicked cause us to become angry and to burn with fear and worry, we are told to "*rest in the Lord*". That is, we are to be careful about allowing ourselves to be worked into a rage over all that the world is doing. We are to patiently wait on the Lord to work out His plan in His timing.

6. THE MEEK PERSON'S DELIVERANCE (PS 37:8-10)

Psalms 37:8-11

⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. ¹⁰ For yet a little while, and the wicked *shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be*.

Again, we are cautioned against anger. In verse 8, the focus of the anger seems to be against the Lord and His seeming delays in life. Instead of anger, we are commanded to be free from anger toward God or the

wicked, and we are commanded to be free from fear and worry. We are reminded that in the end, we win!

7. THE MEEK PERSON'S DIVIDEND (PS 37:11)

Psalms 37:11

¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Close:

While we wait, it often looks bad for the people of the Lord. There are times when it seems like the worldly crowd is winning.

It seems like the church is languishing. It appears that somehow our faith in the Lord is not paying off as we thought it would.

When those times come, do not be envious of that lost man who seems to be prospering. Just remember that the story is still unfolding and that we haven't lived through the last scene just yet! Keep your eyes on the sky, wait patiently for the Lord to finish His plan for the ages and know that the best is yet to come!

