

Moses
Matthew 5:5
Gentlemen and Women

Intro:

- It seems much truer to say, “blessed are the proud, the intimidating, for they want her the earth.”
- Meek people don't inherit anything, do they? That's not what the world says.
- Just look at the leaders of the world. They come across as strong, self-sufficient, overbearing, aggressive, cut-throat.
 - **EX.** Shark Tank
 - It seems that in our culture the last thing any man wants to be known for is being meek. But this is exactly who Christ is.
- **NT witness:**
 - 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.”*
 - 1 Peter 3:15 *“in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who ask you for a reason for the hope that is in you; Yet do it with gentleness and respect.”*
 - Gal. 5:22-23 *“but the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control ; Against such things there is no law.”*
 - Col. 3:12 *“put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”*

1. What does Meek mean?

- **Controlled**
 - Some translations render the word “meek” as “gentle.”
 - Meekness is not weakness.
 - The word does not suggest that you are timid or cowardly, unwilling to make decisions, lack confidence. Or even that you're shy.
 - The Greek word for “meek” was used to describe a tame animal.
 - Meekness simply means that you are self-controlled. You are not one who gives way to the flesh, but rather like a tame horse with a bit in its mouth you are under the control of Christ.

- The biblical definition of meekness is strength under control. A meek person is a strong person but they are gentle and mild as they are controlled by the Spirit.
 - Barclay says, “Blessed is the man who is always angry at the right time, and never angry at the wrong time.”
 - Selfish anger is always a sin.
- Trusting
 - Psalm 37:1-11
 - The psalmist exclaims meekness. The people he is writing to are living in the land, but they don't possess it because of the evil that is around them. He states that they trust and God to bring forth his promise.

2. Jesus was Meek.

- Matthew 11:29 “*I am gentle and humble (lowly) in heart*”
 - Jesus was friendly when he was attacked.
 - Pilate, He kept silent.
 - Peter, He restored him.
 - Judas, He called him friend. (Matthew 26:50)
 - Jesus displayed righteous anger when the mission of God was attacked.
 - Pharisees
 - Temple money-changers
 - Disciples and children
 - Least of these
 - Legalism

3. I must daily perform a Personal evaluation.

- Is there any harshness in my life?
- Am I always trying to gain more power or position?
- Am I unforgiving?
- Am I uncontrolled?
 - None of us are perfect, well we should be pursuing meekness.
 - The progression so far is understanding that we were spiritually bankrupt before God. That our sin grieves us. Therefore, we desire meekness, because it displays a Christ-like attitude.

4. The meek alone inherit the earth.

- The “they” in “they shall inherit” is emphatic: “they alone, only they, shall inherit the earth.

5. Pursuing meekness in my life.

- First, we must realize that a gentle spirit is a gift of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:23). Therefore, it comes only through grace.
- Second, we must yoke ourselves to Jesus, for He was the incarnation of meekness.
 - Matthew 11:29 “*take my yoke upon you, and learn for me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*”
- Third, continually pay attention to the progression of thought in the Beatitudes.
 - Spiritual bankruptcy
 - Grieving over personal sin
 - Christlike control and trust.