

The Beatitudes

Being the followers Jesus longs for



Session 3

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth."
Matthew 5:5

A Few Notes for Understanding the Beatitudes

Audience:

The primary audience is the disciples. There are crowds listening in, but Jesus is directing His teaching to His committed followers.

Purpose:

Jesus is purposefully teaching His disciples the essentials they must know about being His followers and the blessings that result.

Message: The disciple Jesus longs for...

1. is **"poor in spirit."** They **RECOGNIZE** their desperate need for God and totally trust Him.
The Blessing: You belong to God and know that He is in control.
2. **"mourns."** They **GRIEVE** over sin and the damage it has caused in their lives and in the world because it separates us from God.
The Blessing: Mourning leads to confession and repentance which brings God's forgiveness and new life.



BIBLE STUDY

1. As with the previous two beatitudes, this beatitude is rooted in the Old Testament. This time Jesus quotes directly from Psalm 37:11. Read all of Psalm 37. We are going to dig into this passage to learn what Jesus means when he instructs us to be meek.
2. In Psalm 37, David is drawing a sharp contrast between two kinds of people.
 - Give a one-or-two word title for each group of people and write it in the blanks below.
 - Read through the Psalm again and then underneath each title write down all the ways David describes each group.

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3. How would you summarize the lesson David is teaching in this Psalm?
4. Considering what you have just learned, what does it mean to be meek? How does David describe it? Think about the positive qualities listed and the way they contrast with the negative qualities.
5. After reading this Psalm, would you equate meekness with being fearful?
6. The Greek word in Matthew 5:5 translated as “meek” was also used by the Greeks to refer to an animal that was trained or domesticated. In other words, the animal had submitted to the authority of its master. Reread Psalm 37:3-9. Do you think these verses support this idea of what it means to be meek?
7. Let’s look at the blessing associated with being meek. According to Psalm 37, in what ways was inheriting the land a blessing? What does the land represent?
8. When Jesus said the meek will inherit the earth, he was referring to everything you just discovered in Psalm 37 **and more**. To understand what Jesus means by inheriting the earth, read Revelation 21:1-8. What do you learn about what it means to inherit the earth? In what ways does the passage in Revelation 21 compare to Psalm 37? What does Psalm 37 say we should do until Revelation 21 is fulfilled?

APPLY

1. Considering what you have learned about meekness, why would Jesus consider it an essential characteristic of being a disciple He longs for? Was Jesus meek? Explain.
2. What would meekness look like in your life today? What would it look like in relationships? What would it look like when you are facing temptation?
3. Look at the summaries of the first two beatitudes at the beginning of this lesson, how can the characteristics described in those beatitudes help you develop meekness?
4. Identify an area in your life where you are not submitting to God’s control, or you are impatient with God’s timing. What are two or three practical things you can do to help you submit more to God and God’s ways.