Series "The King And His Kingdom"
"Strength Of Gentleness"
Matthew 5:5
Study–11

Jesus' 3rd Beatitude: "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Has been greatly misunderstood! **For Meekness Is Associated With Weakness!**

The Gentle (meek) - **<u>are blessed!</u>**
The Gentle (meek) - **<u>inherit the earth!</u>**

All of these Beatitudes are paradoxical statements!

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Gentle Person Recognizes The Source Of Their Strength And Seeks To Use It For God's Glory, Man's Blessedness."

<u>1. Who Are The Blessed?</u>
<u>2. What Is Gentleness?</u>
<u>3. What Is The Blessing Of Gentleness?</u>
<u>4. How Does One Become Gentle?</u>

<u>1. Who Are The Blessed?</u>

Matthew 5-7 "The Sermon on The Mount"
Jesus is speaking to **Disciples –** *"learners, pupils, followers of the teacher and teachings"* about **"Kingdom Living"**

Matthew 5:3-12
Jesus starts with what are called **"The Beatitudes,"** meaning *"Beautiful Attitudes"*
Beatitudes - means *"have these attitudes"...beautiful attitudes*

<u>There are Eight Beatitudes:</u>
Beatitudes 1-4 Our Response to God (Poor, Mourn, Gentle, Hunger)
Beatitudes 5-8 Our Response to Man (Merciful, Pure, Peacemaker, Persecuted)

Who Are The Blessed?
Those whom God approves, heaven applauds; they have the blessing from Him.

#1 Beatitude "Blessed is the Poor in spirit" This is Spiritual Bankruptcy.
#2 Beatitude "Blessed are those who mourn" "Mourning over Sin."
#3 Beatitude "Blessed are the gentle"

<u>2. What Is Gentleness?</u>

<u>Six Things Gentleness Is Not!</u> (Meekness is not weakness)

1. Gentleness Is Not Produced Naturally:

2. Gentleness Is Not Indecisiveness:
3. Gentleness Is Not Cowardice:
4. Gentleness Is Not Niceness:
5. Gentleness Is Not Peace At Any Price:
6. Gentleness Is Not A Result Of Social Refinement:

Gentle – *"mildness,"* but not weak.
Word refers *"to an inward virtue exercised toward persons, when wronged or abused, to show no resentment nor revenge"*
"Subservient, trusting attitude toward God."

"A wild animal that has been domesticated, that has learned to accept the control of its master, properly behaved." ***"The meekest horse wins the race"***
"Meekness is an active yieldedness to God's commands"

Gentleness is rightly the third beatitude....It follows in order:

1. Poor in spirit - person sees themselves as spiritually bankrupt - **(mind)**
2. Mourning - seeing the condition and weeping over it - **(heart)** Repenting
3. Gentle - A person yields their will in surrender to God - **(will)**

It is the attitude: **"I'll never defend myself, but I'll die defending God."**

Examples of Gentleness:

Jesus Christ is the model of gentleness –

Jesus Was A Lamb In Respect To Himself; He Never Practiced Vindication Or Retaliation:

When Jesus was hanging on the cross – He said to the Father, **Luke 23:34**

Jesus Was A Lion In Matters Of Faith And Care For Others:

Matthew 11:28-30; John 18:1-11 Jesus arrested, yet he remained gentle
1 Peter 2:21-23

Abraham: Genesis 12 Strife developed between Abraham's herdsman and Lot's herdsman. In **Genesis 13:8-12** Abraham offers Lot to take the land that he wanted.

Joseph: His brothers sold him into slavery, and eventually, he becomes the Prime Minister of Egypt. During a time of famine, his brothers come to him for grain. He could have had them slain or had them locked up forever. **Genesis 45:3-15, Genesis 50:20**

Moses is described in **Numbers 12:3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)** "The Meekest Man."

Numbers 12:1-15 Aaron and Miriam spoke against Moses over His mixed marriage. He was married to a Cushite (Black) woman of Ethiopia.

David: was called by God to be king. He was chased for 20 years by Saul. He even had **two opportunities to KILL SAUL,** yet in the account given in **1 Samuel 24:4** and **1 Samuel 26:1** we see that he did not take advantage of those opportunities.

We also see David's willingness to submit to his master in **2 Samuel 16:5-14** a man from Saul's family comes and curses David out as he leaves Jerusalem

Stephen: was falsely accused, recorded in **Acts 7:58-60**

Paul: was powerful yet humble, as we see in **Ephesians 4:1-3; 2 Corinthians 10:1**
Galatians 6:1

<u>Five Reasons Why We Need To Be Gentle:</u>

1. So We Can Receive God's Truth: James 1:21
2. In Order To Be An Effective Witness: 1 Peter 3:15
3. Being Gentle Is The Evidence That We Are Truly Spirit-Filled:
4. It's The Biblical Way To Treat One Another: Philippians 2:3-5
5. Gentleness Brings Glory To God: 1 Peter 3:4

3. What Is The Blessing Of Gentleness?

1. We Are Blessed: "Blessed are the gentle, Joy and peace that is divine –

2. We Are Empowered: Being yielded to God, we experience His power, His unlimited resources coming through us. **2 Corinthians 12:9**

3. We Inherit The Earth: for they shall inherit the earth.

they – The pronoun is emphatic - the sense is: *"Blessed are the gentle, for they, and they alone, only they shall inherit the earth"*

The world possesses a lot of things, but they don't own them!
What they do own is: a lack of peace, constant worry and ever searching.

What is the inheritance we receive RIGHT NOW? The Blessings of Jesus Christ:
- ~ Forgiveness
- ~ Peace
- ~ Joy
- ~ Freedom from the slavery of sin
- ~ Friends that love you (not for drugs & alcohol)

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

Jesus taught us to pray **Matthew 6:10** Future Millennial Reign **Revelation 20:4-6**

4. How Does One Become Gentle?

Six-Point Test: Am I Growing In Gentleness?

1. **Am I Considerate Of Others?**
2. **Sweet-Tempered?** Speak my mind? **Harshness?**
3. **Humble-Minded?**
4. **Teachable?**
5. **Vengeful?**
6. **Uncontrolled?**

How To Become Gentle:

1. **Poor in Spirit:** Know your condition, that you have nothing to offer God
2. **Mourn over that condition:** (filthy sinner) Does your sin break your heart?
3. **See yourself as a sinner:** (Total dependence on God)

Application: Jesus quotes **Psalm 37** for this beatitude

Psalm 37:11 What are the ways of the gentle? Psalm 37:1-11

Note What The Gentle Do:

1. **Psalm 37:1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.**
2. **Psalm 37:3 Trust in the LORD and do good;**
3. **Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD;**
4. **Psalm 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him,**
5. **Psalm 37:7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;**
6. **Psalm 37:8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath;**
7. **Psalm 37:11 But the humble will inherit the land**