
“THE WAY UP IS DOWN AND THE WAY DOWN IS UP”

MATTHEW 5:5

SERIES: “TRUE SPIRITUALITY” (3)

WATERKLOOF BAPTIST CHURCH SERMON NOTES

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Introduction

We are looking at the Beatitudes (the “blesseds”), which form the first part of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7). One writer said the Beatitudes instruct us “*How to live under God’s blessing*”. Indeed, by following Jesus teachings, we discover God’s blessing. Today we are looking at the third Beatitude found in Matthew 5:5, “***Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.***”.

Two men

Jesus was master of the paradox. His teaching is salted with shining contrasts like: *Last is first.*

Giving is receiving.

Dying is living.

Losing is finding.

Least is greatest.

Poor is rich.

Weakness is strength.

Serving is ruling.

Meekness is strength.

A story about a *lack* of meekness

Meekness:

1. An Undoubted attribute

The Greek word does not mean weak, spineless, feeble lifeless or boring. It is the opposite of self-righteousness, arrogance, haughtiness, smugness and defensiveness. Positively it means to be gentle, considerate and unassuming.

Martin Lloyd Jones defines meekness as *“essentially a true view of yourself, expressing itself in attitude and conduct in respect to others.”*

2. An Undeniable Achievement

One thing is for certain: meekness is achievement of considerable spiritual development. If you are truly meek, it is only because something very wonderful has happened; it is a sovereign working of Holy Spirit, of which you are unaware.

3. An Unconscious Anointing

The world applauds the search for power, wealth and glory. A meek person does not *seek* out these things.

The opposite of meekness is pulling strings to achieve what God has already promised you. Meekness will not “pull the strings”.

Psalm 37:11

Psalm 37:4-7

Meekness is entirely an unconscious sense of God.

Psalm 123

WHAT DOES MEEKNESS LOOK LIKE?

A. MOSES (Numbers 14:12-19 & Psalm 106:23)

B. ABRAHAM (Genesis 13:8-9)

4. An Unpretentious Attitude

Jesus example: Philippians 2:7

Ronald Reagan's plaque: *"There is no limit how far a person can go as long as he does not care who gets the credit for it."*

5. An Unparalleled Attainment

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

The story of Black Bart

How do I know when you are truly meek?

"The man who is truly meek is the man who is amazed that God and man can think of him as well as they do and treat him as well as they do."

---Martyn Lloyd Jones: