

Strength Controlled

Matthew 5.5

Overview

What does it mean to be Meek?

- “The ‘meek’ are those who suffer and have been humbled, and yet they do not seek revenge but Gods glory and the welfare of others. In other words, they lovingly trust God and hope in Gods timing and Gods justice.” Scot Mcknight
- Those who are meek are those who are ‘controlled’ by the music of God
 - They are not controlled by the music of the world
 - They are Governed by the Gospel
 - Controlled by the Comfort of Christ the King (Matt. 5.4)
- This means that Meekness involves not the absence of strength, but the presence of strength...it is strength controlled & informed by the Gospel
- Matthew 26.52-54:
 - Though Christ had at His disposal a legion of angels He chooses not to utilize them in the face of brutality in order that others may be saved
- 1 Peter 1.3-7, 13-16, 2.11-12, 4.12-14:
 - Peter calls those who are suffering to not return revile for revile, but keep our hope on a ‘better home’ so that the ‘gentiles’ will see our faith and give glory to God
- It takes more strength to walk away from our passions than it does to give into them and be guided by them and return evil for evil or sin for sin
- Meekness demands a kind of humility that does not need to defend oneself since God, in Christ has already ‘defended’ us and brought us into a better name/country
 - Meekness demands humility
 - Meekness calls us to put off smugness/arrogance/self righteousness

What does it look like to be Meek towards God?

- Because God has granted access to the Believer in the Kingdom and comforted them who has mourned for their sin, they can be meek towards God in that they do not accuse Him when they are in difficulty or discipline:
 - The frame of their soul is quiet towards God
 - They do not clatter under opposition towards Him

What does it look like to be Meek towards man?

- Ephesians 6.16 (Armor of God): Faith diffuses darts from the Evil One
 - When others accuse you, deride you, make fun of you your hope/trust in God define you and therefore ‘defuse’ the darts of the Evil One
 - The same could be said of fellow brothers/sisters in Christ who throw ‘darts’
- Romans 12.19: Do not take revenge for yourself but entrust yourself to God who judges justly...HE will repay, you don’t need to
 - Meekness is the act of living out this idea to your fellow man
 - You stand to inherit the earth...the non-believe doesn’t...wrath awaits them...love them enough to surprise them by your behavior and lead them into a better way

What does it mean to “inherit the earth”?

- There are 14 uses of the phrase “you shall inherit” in the Bible:
 - All of them save one (God will inherit the nations) are used like we see in Matt. 5.5
 - All the previous ones seem to connote this idea of a particular land of blessing:

- Exodus 32.13, Leviticus 20.24, Numbers 26.55, 33.54, etc.
- Psalm 37, Isaiah 57.13
- Understood in this way, “inheriting the earth (or land)” in a New Covenant sense seems to connote THE land/earth...a particular land/earth...namely the New Heavens and New Earth
 - Jesus seems to be saying that the Meek get to inherit Heaven
 - This is what awaits all of those whose hope is bound for a better country and therefore do not try and live for a name/country in the here and now

Questions

Discussion Starter: What are some things that we are ‘controlled’ by? In what ways are those controlling devices good/bad?

1. After reading Matthew 5.5, read Matthew 26.52-54: Describe how you see a lack of meekness (Peter) set against a presence of it in Christ.
2. What does it mean to be Meek?
3. How do you see that in Jesus/Gospel? How do you see it other Apostles or other figures in the New Testament?
4. Read and consider Peter’s admonitions to us in the face of trials/persecutions: 1 Peter 1.3-7, 13-16, 2.11-12, 4.12-14, 5.6-11.
5. In what way is Meekness not weakness (as weakness is understood by the world)? In what ways would Meekness demand MORE strength than those who live out of their passions/desires?
6. Why is meekness such a difficult thing to live inside at our jobs/relationships?
7. Share some stories of wins or losses and direct each of them into the example of Christ.
8. What does it mean to ‘inherit the earth’?
9. What is so great about this gift?
10. How does the hope of an inheritance in ‘the earth/land’ drive you to be faithful in your exile?

Accountability Question: *What passions/desires are most susceptible to not being meek? Why?*

In what ways are you ‘hoping in heaven’ or finding strength and encouragement in the promise of a better land?