

## A Promise to the Humble

### Matthew 5:5

ETS: The humble are promised to inherit the earth

ESS: Those who are humble before God experience God's rule now and will one day rule with God.

OSS: I want people to know how a humble person lives

PQ: Are you a humble person?

### ME

Gentleness sometimes stinks!

- About ½ mile down the road from where I lived in Chattanooga there was an elementary school.
  - In those days we could ride our bikes out onto the elementary school grounds.
  - We would go play on the monkey bars, slides, etc.
  - There was big hill and we would use it to jump with our bikes or ride down with our skateboards.

Sometimes when you get a large group of kids together things happen.

- I was the new kid on the block and there was a mean girl there who wanted to pick a fight with me.
  - I did not want to fight her, but she did.
- She came at me and I tried to avoid her, but somehow she got a hold of my shirt and slung me to the

ground. She jumped on me and proceeded to beat me with her fists.

- You know what I did?
  - Nothing! I was raised that you don't hit a girl so I let her hit me!

I finally got loose and ran home.

### **Gentleness sometimes stinks!**

- I was gentle-I didn't hit her back!
- But, I was made fun of by the neighborhood kids!
  - Gentleness sometimes stinks!

## **WE**

We don't live in a very “Gentle” culture!

- It is a “dog-eat-dog” world out there!
- It is a cut-throat world!
  - It is an “every man for himself” world!

### **Gentleness does not sell!**

- Wrestling, Mixed Martial Arts, and boxing are huge money-makers!
- Teenagers are posting “fight” videos on the internet

So we walk into church on Sunday Morning and the preacher says **Mt 5:5** “Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.” (CSB)

- What does that mean?

- Does it really pay to be “humble”?  
Turn in your Bibles to **Matthew 5:5**

## GOD

**Question:** *Is the beatitudes a series of do's?*

- Problem: We tend to turn things into a law to be practiced

Example: **Matthew 5:3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

- *Law to be Practiced:* Be dependent upon God and you will have the kingdom of heaven

**Matthew 5:4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- *Law to be Practiced:* Mourn and you will be comforted

**Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

- *Law to be Practiced* “Humble yourself and you’ll “inherit the earth”—whatever that looks like”

**TENDENCY:** To see God as coming to give us things  
“TO DO”

We think of Beatitudes like the 10 Commandments!

## Moses

- Went up on the mountain
- Came down with **10 commandments**

**BUT, they are not!**

## Jesus

- Went up on the mountain
- *Didn't come down* to the people: the people went up to Him
- Didn't have stone tablets; spoke words
- Didn't have "**Thou shalt**" as opening words, but "**Blessed**"

DEEP DIVE WITH A POINT....

The most **well-known translation** of this verse is **Mt 5:5**  
"**Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.**"  
(*KJV*)

In fact, the opening words "**Blessed are**"

- Did you know that there is **no verb** "**Are**" in the original language?
  - The translators have added the word "**are**" in!

If you have a **KJV Bible** and you see a word in *ITALICS*, it means that in the Greek (NT), or in the Hebrew (OT),

there is *no equivalent word*, and that that word has had to be added to bring out the meaning of the sentence and make it more readable.

- For example, our text is in its original form: “**Blessed the humble because they will inherit the earth**”
- In the beatitudes there is **no verb “ARE”** in the **original language**
  - So when it was **translated to ENGLISH** the word “ARE” was added so it would read easier.

### SO WHAT?

The NT was written in **common Greek** but Jesus didn’t speak Greek—*at least not when He was talking to His own people!*

- Over 700 years *before Jesus*, the **Assyrians** came down from the *north* and invaded the land and took the **10 northern Jewish** tribes and assimilated them into their culture.
  - The Assyrians spoke [Aramaic](#)
- A little over 500 years before Jesus, the Babylonians invaded the two remaining **southern tribes** of the Jews and took them captive *north* to Babylon.
  - The **Babylonians** also spoke **Aramaic**.
    - Parts of the **Book of Daniel** and **Ezra** were written in **Aramaic** instead of Hebrew.

- The **returning Jews** came back from Babylon **speaking Aramaic**—which was the language used in **Babylon**.
  - Aramaic and Hebrew (the original language of the Jews) are **closely related** so it wasn't a big deal for them to switch to Aramaic during their 70 years of captivity.
    - After the captivity, they continued to use Aramaic.

The good news is that **Aramaic and Hebrew**—the native tongue of the Jews—are **similar** so it **wasn't** a **HUGE** issue to **transition** to Aramaic.

- If you read the **Gospel of John** and **Acts**, you will occasionally run across the phrase **“Which is Aramaic is...”** while in other translations it will say **“in the Hebrew tongue...”**
  - Translators are divided because of the similarity of the words

When the Greeks took over, they brought in **Greek** as the **common trade language**

- The **NT** was written in **common Greek** b/c it was the **common trade language**
  - But the **average Jew spoke** Aramaic in their interactions with each other.

## WHY AM I SAYING ALL THIS?

### Jesus spoke the Beatitudes in Aramaic.

- The word “**Blessed**” is a translation of the **Aramaic/Hebrew expression “O the blessedness of . . .”**
  - In other words, Jesus started each Beatitude with the phrase “**O the blessedness of . . .”**

**Bottom Line:** The phrase translated “**Blessed are**” is a translation of the Aramaic/Hebrew expression “**O the blessedness of . . .”**

- That expression “**O the blessedness of . . .”** was a **statement of fact**

In other words, the *beatitudes are not simple statements; they are exclamations: “O the blessedness of BEING!*

- The Beatitudes are ***not*** commands of things to be **DOING!**
- The Beatitudes are exclamations of **BEING!**

**Matthew 5:3** **O the blessedness of the poor in spirit** (e.g., dependent upon God)

- Why? “**Because that person *is experiencing the Kingdom of Heaven*”**
  - WHY? Because they are allowing God to rule and reign in his/her life!

**Matthew 5:4** O the blessedness of those who mourn

- Why? “Because that person is experiencing God’s comfort the Holy Spirit”
  - They are **experiencing** God’s comfort over the **loss** created by sin
    - He/she is **experiencing God** on a **deeper level**.

*Jesus is exclaiming what a BLEST life looks like!*

A **BLEST LIFE** is living a life “*poor in spirit*” (e.g., being totally dependent upon God)

A **BLEST LIFE** is “**experiencing God’s comfort when you mourn**”

Let me spin the **record backwards** and see if it helps.....

**Matthew 5:3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

- **Backwards:** “*God is on the throne of a person’s heart who is totally dependent upon Him; therefore they are truly blessed!*”

**Matthew 5:4** “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

- **Backwards:** *God provides comfort for those who are hurting over the effects of sin; therefore they are truly blessed!*”

Let's tackle the next beatitude....

**Scene:**

Jesus is surrounded by His newly-formed band of disciples

These men are experiencing a **new status!**

- **Status:** Associates of the increasingly popular Jesus
- **Status:** They are part of Jesus' inner circle!!

With Status comes **perks!**

Jesus takes His newly-formed band of followers up on the mountain

- They have the **exclusive seats** around Jesus
- They have the **exclusive invitations'** to **“be with”** Jesus
- They are going to be the **primary recipients** of His message!
  - Jesus is speaking **primarily** to His **disciples**

These men had been selected by Jesus!

- Although they didn't grasp the full significance of their mission, these men would one day be **leaders** of the **church!**
- In just a couple of years, people would look to these men for **answers, direction, and wisdom!**
- In just a couple of years these men would be in **charge of building** the church upon the **foundation of Christ!**

So, this *next beatitude is very important!*

**Mt 5:5** “Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.” (CSB)

- *Amplified:* O the blessedness of the humble, for they will inherit the earth”

When you think of a “Meek” or “Humble” person what image comes to your mind?

- Quite
- Subservient?
- Afraid to take a stand?

*Growing up in a mega-church* we had our own camp, called **Camp Joy**, and there were horses at the camp.

- I rode horses a lot at Camp Joy

While in high school ....

- For two summers I worked as a counselor at **Teen Valley Ranch**

- We had horses there.
  - The **counselors** would take the horses out on **long rides** during our weekend breaks.
  - We also road the **horses** in **mini-rodeos**, etc.
- I rode horses a lot there too.

When you are sitting on a horse, you are sitting on power!

- That animal is **huge**
- It is a mass of **muscle!**
  - I remember that one of the camp's directors broke his hand when, out of anger, he hit a horse!
- A horse is God's **Engine**
  - We measure power of our cars in "**Horsepower**"
- A horse is God's **4-wheel drive**
  - Those animals **can climb** and go through any **terrain!**

Horses are not only **strong**, but Horses, *as prey animals*, have an **inborn fight** or **flight instinct**

- **Horses will fight back!**
  - That's why if you put a person on an **unbroken horse**, you'd better watch out!
    - Those things **kick, pop, twist**, contort, etc. to try to throw the human off!

- Many **people** have been **killed** attempting to **break** a wild horse

Did you know that the word translated “**Humble**” or “**Meek**” is the same word used to refer to a **horse** that has been **tamed**?<sup>1</sup>

- A **wild horse** that has been **broken** is called a “**Meek**” or “**Gentle**” or “**Humble**” horse!
  - Is that tamed horse **still strong**? Yes
  - Is that tamed horse **still a mass of muscles**? Yes
  - Is that tamed horse **still able to kick, twist and contort**? Yes
    - But the tamed horse **no longer** does that with a human rider!
      - Why? Because the horse is now a “**Meek**” horse!

The meek horse no longer resists the rider

- If you move the **reigns** to the **right**, the horse moves to the right
- If you **pull back** on the **reigns** the horse backs up, or if you are riding, he/she slows down
- If you kick the horse in the ribs, it will start to run.

The meek horse no longer resists the rider

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<sup>1</sup>*Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vols. 5-9 Edited by Gerhard Friedrich. Vol. 10 Compiled by Ronald Pitkin., ed. Gerhard Kittel, Geoffrey William Bromiley and Gerhard Friedrich (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964-c1976), 6:645.

## WHAT is a MEEK/HUMBLE person?

A meek **person** ....

- Does **not resist** God's work in his/her life
  - **Mt 5:5 O the blessedness of the person who....**Does **not resist** God's work in his/her life
- **Accepts** the **commands** God gives him/her
  - **Mt 5:5 O the blessedness of the person who....****Accepts** the **commands** God gives him/her
- **Does** what God is **asking** him/her to do.
  - **Mt 5:5 O the blessedness of the person who....**Does what God is **asking** him/her to do.

A meek **person** ....

- **Accepts** that whatever **God allows** is for his/her good
  - **Mt 5:5 O the blessedness of the person who....****Accepts** that whatever **God allows** is for his/her good
- **Relies** on **God** rather than his/her own strength to defend against injustice
  - **Mt 5:5 O the blessedness of the person who....****Relies** on **God** rather than his/her own strength to defend against injustice
- **Trusts** in **God's goodness** and **control** over the situation

- **Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Trusts in God's goodness and control over the situation

A meek person is NOT....

- **Self-assertive**
  - **Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....is NOT self-assertive
- **Does not operate out of self-interest.**
  - **Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....is NOT out for themselves

Later in **Matthew 11:28, 29** Jesus gave a description of Himself to the crowd.

- **Mt 11:29-30** “Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble (same word as in Matthew 5:5) in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (CSB)
  - Jesus, the most powerful man, describes Himself as “Gentle” or “Meek”!

How can the MOST POWERFUL man describe Himself as “lowly and humble in heart”?

*Because He never operated outside of the control of God the Father!*

- **Mt 4:1** “Then Jesus was *led up by the Spirit* into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (CSB)
- **Jn 5:30** “... I do not seek My own will, *but the will of Him who sent Me.*”
- **Jn 6:38** “For I have come down from heaven, *not to do My will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*” (HCSB)

Jesus, as God in-the-flesh, **had power**, but He was **submissive** to the **Father!**

- **Jesus went** where the **Father** sent Him
- **Jesus taught** what the **Father** told Him to teach
- **Jesus did** what the **Father** said to do!

## HOW TO HAVE YOUR BLEST LIFE NOW? LIVE IN SUBMISSION TO GOD

These **disciples** are going to have a **lot of power** in the eyes of people

- Their **decisions** will **affect** a lot of **people**
- Their **decisions** will affect the **course** of the **church!**

Jesus is teaching them that a BLEST LIFE is NOT one of self-interest, but of **SUBMISSION** to **God**.

Jesus is teaching these **disciples**, that the person who ....

- Does **not resist** God’s work in his/her life

- **Accepts** the **commands** God gives him/her
- **Does** what God is **asking** him/her to do.
- **Accepts** that whatever **God allows** is for his/her good
- **Relies** on **God** rather than his/her own strength to defend against injustice
- **Trusts** in **God's goodness** and **control** over the situation

...Is enjoying his **BLEST LIFE NOW!**

Horses operate with a **herd** mentality!

- Horses are **social animals**
- Horses **prefer to live in groups**
  - You have probably seen the pictures of **mustangs running** (show Picture)
- Horses are **prey animals** with a well-developed fight-or-flight instinct
  - Their first response to a **threat** is to **flee!**

If a tamed horse, a gentle horse, is ridden into a **herd of horses**, it will **not bolt** and **run** with the herd, but rather it will **stay under the control** of its **master!**

- In other words, when the rest of the **herd** is **running**, *it will stay*
  - When the rest of the **herd** is **irritated** or **excited**, *it will remain calm*
    - Why? Because it is **under** the **control** of its **master!**

Because it is **under the control** of its master, it **doesn't spend** its days **wondering aimlessly** with the herd!

- Instead, it is **useful** to its **Master!**
  - It is **used** by the **master** to **accomplish work**, tasks, etc.
  - It **puts its energy, power, and abilities** to please the **master!**

**Jesus** was not a spineless, weak man, we see a man of **radical boldness!**

- It took **radical boldness** to
  - Stand against **Satan**
  - Stand up against the **religious establishment**
  - Stand silent before **Pilate** in the face of whippings and death
  - Go to the **cross**

In just a couple of years the **disciples** would be called upon to be **“radically bold”**

- **Radical boldness** would be required for **Peter** to stand before His fellow countrymen in the very city outside of which Jesus was crucified less than two months earlier and proclaim that He was the **Long-awaited Messiah!**
- **Radical boldness** would be required for **Peter, James** and the other apostles to stand against the

**legalists** who insisted that **Gentile converts** follow portions of the Old Testament law for their salvation!

- It required “**Gentleness**” for **Peter** to obey the Lord and go to the **Gentiles** and share the Gospel.

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Does not resist God’s work in his/her life

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Accepts the commands God gives him/her

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Does what God is asking him/her to do.

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Accepts that whatever **God allows** is for his/her good

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Relies on **God** rather than his/her own strength to defend against injustice

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Trusts in **God's goodness and control** over the situation

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....is NOT self-assertive

**Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....is NOT out for themselves

**Matt. 5:5** “Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.”

**HOW TO HAVE YOUR BLEST LIFE NOW?  
LIVE IN SUBMISSION TO GOD**

The **Gentle** or **Meek** person **relies** on God rather than their own strength

- The **Gentle** or **Meek** person **trusts** in God's goodness and control over the situation
- The **Gentle** or **Meek** person **allows** God to be in control
- The **Gentle** or **Meek** person **accepts** that God is in control!

The Blessed person is not worrying about the "**herd**" he/she is worried about only one person-God!

WHAT did Jesus mean when He said "**Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth**"?

How can **humble** person "**inherit the earth**"?

- This is so *not-Hollywood*!
  - The Terminator "**inherited the earth**" (at least he saved it) and it **wasn't** because he was gentle!
- This is so *not-Political*!
  - **Dictators** like **Kim Jong III** have "**inherited North Korea**" and it wasn't because he was gentle!
  - **Dictators** like **Castro** have "**Inherited Cuba**" and it wasn't because he was gentle!

How can the "**humble inherit the earth**" when it seems like it is the **harsh**, the **overbearing**, the **mean** that actually "**inherit the earth**"?

**Context:** Jewish men – the 12 Disciples

- Grown up being taught about “*the land* that God had given them”
  - **Moses** and the “**Promised Land**”

The phrase “**inherit the land**” appears **8 times** in the **Old Testament** and **5** of those times are in **Psalm 37**

- In **Ps. 37** David was explaining to his people—the Jewish people—the kind of people who will “**inherit the land**”
  - **Ps. 37:9** “but those who **put their hope in the Lord** will *inherit the land*”
  - **Ps. 37:11** “But the **humble** will *inherit the land* and will enjoy abundant prosperity.” (Sound familiar to what Jesus was saying *except* Jesus said “earth” NOT land!)
  - **Ps. 37:22a** “Those who are **blessed by the Lord** will *inherit the land*”
  - **Ps. 37:29** “The **righteous** will *inherit the land* and dwell in it permanently.”
  - **Ps. 37:34** “**Wait for the Lord** and keep his way, and he will exalt you to *inherit the land.*”

*Remember, the Jews have NEVER occupied all the LAND that was promised to Abraham!*

- When David wrote **Psalm 37**, there was **still land** that was yet to be “**inherited**”!

WHEN were they going to “*inherit*” ALL the land promised?

- When you read the prophetic teachings in Scripture you realize that the Jewish nation **will not “inherit” all the land** promised to Abraham **until the Return of Christ!**
  - It is only when **Christ is reigning** on this earth for **1,000 years** that the Jewish people occupy **ALL the land promised to Abraham!**

When you read **Ps. 37**, it is clear that David is **looking forward** to that day!

- **Ps. 37:7** “Be silent before the Lord and *wait expectantly* for him;
- **Ps. 37:9** For evildoers *will be* destroyed (*FUTURE*), but those who put their hope in the Lord *will inherit the land.*” (*FUTURE*)
- **Ps. 37:10-11** “A little while, and the wicked person *will be* no more (*FUTURE*); though you look for him, he will not be there. 11 But the humble *will inherit the land* (*FUTURE*) and *will enjoy* abundant prosperity.”
- **Ps. 37:12-13** “The wicked person schemes against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him. 13 The Lord laughs at him because he sees that his day is coming.” (*FUTURE*)

- **Ps. 37:17** For the arms of the wicked will be broken, (*FUTURE*)
- **Ps. 37:18** The Lord watches over the blameless all their days, and their **inheritance will last forever**. (*FUTURE*)
- **Ps. 37:20** But the wicked will perish; (*FUTURE*) the Lord's enemies, like the glory of the pastures, will fade away (*FUTURE*)— they will fade away like smoke.” (*FUTURE*)
- **Ps. 37:22** Those who are blessed by the Lord will *inherit the land* (*FUTURE*), but those cursed by him will be destroyed.
- **Ps. 37:28b-29** “but the children of the wicked will be destroyed. (*FUTURE*) 29 The righteous will *inherit the land* (*FUTURE*) and dwell in it permanently.”
- **Ps. 37:34** “Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to *inherit the land*.” (*FUTURE*)
- **Ps. 37:37-38** Watch the blameless and observe the upright, for the person of peace will have a future. (*FUTURE*) 38 But transgressors will all be eliminated; (*FUTURE*) *the future of the wicked will be destroyed*.”

**Matt. 5:5** “Blessed are the humble, for they *will inherit the earth*.”

- *Jesus is not just talking about “the land” promise to the Jews but “the earth”*
  - The scope is expanded

- The **Jewish nation** will “inherit the land” as Promised
  - **All believers**—those who have “**HUMBLED**” themselves before God will “inherit the earth!”

**Believers are promised** that there is coming a day when we will **rule and reign** with Christ on the earth!

- **Rev. 20:4** “Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads or their hands. *They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*”
- **Rev 20:6** “Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! (All believers who have died “in Christ”) The second death has no power over **them** (eternal separation from God for all who rejected Him), but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and *they will reign with him for a thousand years.*”
- **2 Ti 2:12** “if we endure, *we will also reign with him;* if we deny him, he will also deny us;”

How do we “endure”?

- **Mt 5:5** O the blessedness of the person who....Does not resist God's work in his/her life
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**Matt. 5:5** “Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.”

- There is everything to gain for those who are humble before God

**HOW TO HAVE YOUR BLEST LIFE NOW?  
LIVE IN SUBMISSION TO GOD**

## YOU

### PQ: Are you humble before God?

- Are you resisting God's work in your life?
  - If so, you are not living your BLEST LIFE NOW!
- Are you resisting obedience to God's command to love one another, abstain from sexual immorality, impurity, lying, greed, lust, etc. ?
  - If so, you are not living your BLEST LIFE NOW!
- Are you **unwilling** to step out in faith and follow God?
  - If so, you are not living your BLEST LIFE NOW!
- Are you refusing to accept that whatever has happened in your life, God has a purpose mad that He can work through your circumstances?
  - If so, you are not living your BLEST LIFE NOW!
- Are you trying to fix everything on your own?
  - If so, you are not living your BLEST LIFE NOW!
- Are you focused on "getting ahead" no matter what it takes?
  - If so, you are not living your BLEST LIFE NOW!

**PQ: Are you humble before God?**

- If you are not “**ENDURING**” by **resisting** God, then **WHY** do you think you would **want** to “**rule and reign**” with Him in the **future**, if you **can’t allow** Him to “**reign**” in your heart now?