



## Beatitudes – Blessed are the Meek

**Date:** Sunday 10th May

**Speaker:** Andrew McNeil

**Key Verses:** Matthew 5:5

### Talk Summary:

- 1. What does Meekness mean?** Greek word translated 'meek' is *praus*, can be translated various ways including humble or gentle. Meek is definitely not weak, the only two people described as meek in the bible are Moses and Jesus.
  - a) The meek are those who have been humbled.**
    - Jesus listeners were people humbled by Roman oppression. Their experience was that the powerful inherit the earth – not the meek.
    - Jesus expands his kingdom through the meek and his kingdom is everlasting.
    - If you are feeling weak, oppressed, or broken. The invitation of Jesus is to come to Him. It's all about what He has done not what you can bring. Acceptance into his kingdom is not based on your status or success.
  - b) The meek are those who choose to humble themselves.**
    - If you think you are doing OK in life then the invitation from Jesus is still to come, change your thinking and turn to Him, freely humble yourself before King Jesus putting Him in control. He's a leader to be followed.
- 2. This beatitude points in four directions**
  - a. It points to a Psalm – Psalm 37**
    - Psalm 37 is a response to the problem of human evil. God is saying don't retaliate. Trust in God for his vindication. Show patience when provoked, refuse to retaliate.

- What about righteous anger. Many people get angry about issues in this world, and they use that anger to motivate them to action. That's an ok start, but if anger remains your motivation, then your emotional attention is on the perpetrator. The victim doesn't need your anger they need compassion. Love is enough of a motivator.
- b. Points to a Principle – Pursue a life of meekness**
- The New Testament consistently encourages us to pursue a life of meekness / Humility / Gentleness. (Ephesians 4:2, Philippians 4:5, Colossians 3:12)
  - To be meek means we're not at the mercy of instinctive responses – for revenge or retaliation. It means we're learning to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to become more like Jesus and the Fruit of the Spirit gentleness & self-control is a growing reality in us.
- c. Points to a Person - Moses**
- Moses in his later life was described as “more meek than anyone else on the face of the earth” Numbers [12:3](#). But in his early years he was impulsive – his strength but was not submitted to God. He reacted out of his own anger at injustice (Exodus Chapter 2) killed a man then fled from Egypt in disgrace.
  - God took him to the desert to humble him and he was certainly very different when he returned as the one bearing God's message to Pharaoh.
  - Meekness is submitted strength.
- d. Points to a Promise - Inherit the earth**
- An inheritance - Jesus dies and has remembered us in his will. His death makes an inheritance available.
  - We are welcomed into a family filled with the fathers love and receive the Holy Spirit who makes the power of the kingdom available to us now.
  - When Jesus returns we will inherit a perfect new creation.
- 3. There are a number of ways we can respond**
- An invitation to healing - Some of us have been hurt by people who are the opposite of meek. Jesus wants you to know he can be trusted. The love of Jesus enables forgiveness that brings healing and freedom to our lives.
  - An invitation to submission – Some of us need to submit to Jesus leadership so we can lead like him.
  - An invitation to honesty - Some of us need to be honest about an emotional unpredictability in us that is hurting us and the people we love. Jesus has a better way.

## Group discussion

### Worship

- Why not start your time together with a centring prayer exercise, or some musical worship?
  - More ideas at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship) or [bvc.so/sgprayer](http://bvc.so/sgprayer)

### Word

- Is there anything from the talk you found interesting or surprising? Why?
- Anger is the right response to injustice but it's not a sustainable one, how do we grow in being motivated by love?
- Which of the 3 invitations (healing, submission, honesty) do you need to accept? How are you going to do that this week?
- A helpful resource might be: <https://www.emotionallyhealthy.org/?v=79cba1185463>

### Witness

- Who do you know who is 'humbled by the system' at the moment? How can we serve those that are struggling in society at this time? (e.g. foodbank donations)