

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Being Heavenly Happy  
Sermon #4 Title: Under Control, but Over the World  
Sermon #4 Text: (Matthew 5:5)

I cannot think of another verse of scripture that is more misunderstood than this one. I can think of many that people often use that are as misunderstood, but I believe that this one gets looked at more like a hallmark card than it does divine dynamite soaking with eternal consequences.

- In fact this is perhaps the softest sounding verse with the farthest reaching punch in the New Testament.
- Not very often do we stop and analyze this statement from our Lord.

It is the third statement that Jesus makes as He lays out for us what actually does make the heart heavenly happy. Divinely designed happiness, for all of those who are living under the Lord's rule and reign.

What does He mean when He says, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

Well note this – The fact that Jesus said it, makes it the Word of God. But long before the Son of God said this on the Judean hillside, the Spirit of God said it through the hand of David in Psalm 37.

Psalm 37:11 – "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

In fact 5 times in Psalm 37, the song records the promise of "inheriting the earth."

\*note – Now that being said, when Jesus said it here, not only does the quality of meekness flow naturally with being poor in spirit, and mourning, but it was already a verse of scripture that any devoted Jew in the crowd was familiar with. – When Jesus said this . . . He wasn't saying something they hadn't heard before.

- It wasn't new – it may have been new to some, but it wasn't a new statement from God.

Now if that's the case, what does it mean?

## I. The Condition of Meekness Clarified

\*Note – In order to understand the Word of God, you must understand the Words of God, and what it is that Jesus is speaking of.

### **A. As Defined**

1.) This word is only used 3 times in the New Testament – "prah-ooce"

- a.) mild, humble, gentle, or lowly
- b.) what it is not:

- (1.) it is not weakness
- (2.) it is not frailty
- (3.) It is not powerless

\*Note – Meek, in the English language is not a "macho" word, and for many it sometimes comes across as being a little fearful, or feminine, as a quality, of which nothing could be further from the truth.

c.) In it's fullest idea it is:

- (1.) Strength under control

\*Note – Many writers and theologians over the years have tried their best to get a grip on this word in a blue collar way to help us get the idea . . .

- Some of the word pictures we might paint this word is obviously humble – but it's even more than just humble

- it is the total absence of arrogance

- it is the total absences of self-promotion, self-assertiveness, and self-righteousness – while possessing power and strength.

- Someone who is meek has the innate ability to be using power without abusing power, to exercise strength, without exalting self.

- Meekness is to Power, what Wisdom is to knowledge. Wisdom is the right use of knowledge, without abusing it – meekness is the right use of power without abusing it.

(Let me pause here for a second and say - This is not an incidental quality. – let's take a second and just lay this across the landscape of society and see what it looks like.

- Any man or woman who cannot use power and strength without abusing it is not someone with a minor character flaw – they are someone with serious sin in their soul that must be repented of!

\*Note – Let me tell you where this shows up the most . . .

#### 1.) In Marriages . . .

a.) When a husband abuses his role as the head of the household.

(a.) verbally demanding

(b.) emotionally manipulative

(c.) circumstantially controlling

Head of the house doesn't mean God of the house. – I've seen men over the years, deny their wives, phones, checkbooks, automobiles, so they can keep them bottled up under control. A man said one time – “she'd just go do things I don't want her to do.” – And . . . “I can't trust her to do what I want her to do.” – And . . . You're the head, you're not her God.

- Preacher she's supposed to do what I say . . .

- You're supposed to only say what the Bible says . . . not what makes you happy....

- Man if that's you, get on your knees and repent, you don't have an alibi, you don't have an explanation, you don't have an excuse, and you do not have an earth to inherit . . .

#### 2.) In Managers

a.) I don't know many people who at one time in their life didn't have a boss that power went to their head like a rocket to the moon.

b.) How many times have we heard of teachers/ judges/ congressmen/ doctors/ lawyers/ charged with betraying the public trust, abuse of power, abuse of authority, or abuse of office?

c.) Whatever power you may have at your place of labor, much or little, Christian man or woman, there is no place, or position over another human being that is ever to be used to satisfy your sense of supremacy.

\*Note – There is one more place this shows up, and I'm embarrassed and ashamed to say it, but it's so – and that's in the ministry. Spiritual Abuse, and Biblical Abuse.

#### 3.) In Ministries

\*Note – As a matter of fact the scriptures spells out this warning to the minister in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5 – “neither being lords over God’s heritage.”

a.) This land is saturated with men behind pulpits that are there to fleece the flock and beat the sheep, and glorify themselves, and it happens all the time.

\*Note – Furthermore the Bible tells the pastor in 2 Timothy 2:5 – to “in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.” One of the greatest challenges in the ministry is teaching people who refuse to be taught, explaining to people who will not receive it, and do so to their own ultimate harm.

\*Note – I believe every Bible preaching pastor must guard against the temptation to “use the Word of God deceitfully” as spoken of by Paul. To impose his personal preferences into the scriptures . . . to take advantage of someone’s ignorance . . . to act as a hammer when what really is needed is a screwdriver . . . None of that is strength under control.

(now all of that being said, you need to know the meaning of meekness . . . power to use with the heart not to abuse . . .)

**B. As Displayed** – now we know what lack of meekness looks like, and where it shows up in marriages, managers, and ministers – but where can actual bona fide meekness be seen?

1.) For the crowd gathered before Jesus, they possibly would have thought of Moses . . .

- Numbers 12:3 - (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) -

- Just from a worldly standpoint

\*known by men as the great lawgiver

\*one of the greatest national leaders the world has ever known

\*even one of the great military leaders

- If you want a lesson in leadership as many peddle their ideas today do – you would do good to study the life of Moses, and you’ll find that above all the men on earth – one of his greatest qualities was his “meekness.”

2.) But really there is a greater place to see meekness in perfectly clear demonstration . . .

What Jesus is speaking about in Matthew 5:5, Jesus demonstrated in Matthew 26:53 – Standing in the garden of Gethsemane on the night before His crucifixion, when the disciples pulled their swords on the temple guard...Jesus stopped all activity and said, - *“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”*

- *Do you not think I could plunge these people into hell with just my word? – Of course I could . . . but I won’t.*

When the Pharisees shouted “Let Him come down from the cross and we’ll believe Him.” – Do you not think He could? One of these days He will come down from the clouds, and many will wish He hadn’t.

- His strength, will, and power – He had reigned in under the Father’s control. – That is meekness!

- When Jesus gave His most gentle and personal invitation He said in Matthew 11:28-29 – “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke

upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

- it is Defined by the Word, and it is Displayed by the Lord, you must have a clear understanding of Meekness!

## II. The Confusion of the Culture Stupefied

\*Note – Now there is something to understand that is not in this verse, but behind it. I never want to read anything into the scriptures, but I never want to miss what is often hiding in plain sight.

- If we take into account the general attitudes and atmosphere of the people that day – He just contradicted everything their society taught.

### ***A. It was Counter to their Culture***

1.) Take for instance the man who would become a disciple of Jesus, and an Apostle of Jesus, Simon the Zealot.

\*Note – Simon was part of a political and social movement who worked to undermine Rome, and free the nation from Roman tyranny . . . when Jesus came on the scene preaching, “The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand” Simon immediately joined in, because the Old Testament always promised an earthly throne to Israel free of pagan and Gentile control.

- But the attitude of that day, not only in the Zealots, but in the society at large was that “Blessed are the Conquerors – they inherit the earth.”

- Or to the Victor goes the Spoils – the Winner inherits the earth . . .

- The Powerful inherits the earth

- this was the accepted, prevailing norms and philosophies of that world . . . what Jesus said denied every single bit of it.

Much like the looks on some faces back in 2004 when I was privileged to preach to my home town as they gathered for the baccalaureate of the graduating class of Mountain View High School. I preached to them that day, David’s last words to Solomon about being a man, and moving forward. And when I preached, what I have so often – Never follow your dreams, never follow your heart – always follow the Lord, some people looked at me like I’d just thrown their phone in the commode . . .

- to them that was like speaking of a flat earth and moon cheese.

- but I also remember, getting cards and letters from everywhere, and even a chocolate candy gram, from a grandmother from out of state who had come in for the graduation, to say – “we got it!”

- When Jesus said, the “Meek shall inherit the earth” he was saying the polar opposite of the common philosophy.

- Here is your dividing line. – You cannot believe the world, AND believe the Lord at the same time.

- When Jesus said what He said, immediately the multitude had to choose 1.) Who to believe, and 2.) Who Not to believe.

### ***B. It was Condemning to their Leaders***

1.) the Lord’s message of meekness was a direct condemnation of the behavior of the ruling Religious leaders of Israel.

\*Note – Without going through and exhausting all of their behaviors, the rest of the gospels tells us that they . . .

- sounded trumpets for people to see them give money

- made great shows of praying for all to see

- enlarged the fringes on their robes so people could see how “holy” they were.

- one of the clearest descriptions of Pharisaical abuse is recorded in Matthew 23, when Jesus declares their guilt. In Matthew 23:4-7 – “For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.”

With that being said – Our Lord’s word “Blessed are the Meek” Polarized the culture, and Publicized the Hypocrites! Laying before the multitude the truth for all to hear.

### III. The Conclusion of the Matter Simplified

\*note – Now here is the happiness to those Under Control – They will be placed, over the land. – What is He talking about? Two things – One nationally to Israel, and one Prophetically to the Saved.

#### ***A. It is the Plan and Promise to Israel***

1.) “inherit the earth” or as some of your translations may say, “inherit the land” – this is language near and dear to the heart of the Jew. It is a reference to what we call the “Palestinian Covenant.” –

\*Note – It is what the fighting on your television screen is about in the Middle East. When you hear the talking heads speak of a possible, “two state solution” they are talking about how the Nation of Israel, and a Nation of Non-Jewish Arabs, can have two countries on one piece of land.

- Whatever else you may hear, realize this – the Lord God of Heaven promised the land of Palestine to the descendants of Abraham through Isaac, not Ishmael, as their rightful place on earth. – Now that’s going to happen.

- Some may say when? – The answer is right here – When Israel is “meeked”. When they are under the willful control of the Lord Jesus – they will inherit the land.

- In fact Jesus said, that Israel would not see Him again, until they said, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord,” speaking of Himself.

- Prophetically speaking, the nation of Israel will one day turn to Jesus, and admit that He is in fact the Messiah, and will surrender to Him. And when they do, it will be Katy Bar the Door

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***B. It is the Will and Testament of the Lord*** – while it is the language of the Israelite, it is also the will and testament of the Lord for all of His personal heirs, during the coming time when He will be the visible, governing, ruler of this world.

1.) Listen to the song of the elders in Revelation 5:9-10 – “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

Those who are “meek” as the Lord speaks of, are those who have given Him control over them . . . they are power under control . . . His control.

The meek are the people who actually intend to yield the control of all power, and strength in their lives – to Him.

- They get their feelings – Under His Word
- They get their own passions – Under His Word
- They get their own desires – Under His Word

- And to those that yield control to Him, greater role will be given. – He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful in that which is much – the meek will inherit the earth!

Conclusion – How to become Meek – How to get Under the Lord's Control.

Write this down – James 1:21-22, the brother of Jesus, before the resurrection believed Jesus was a lunatic. After he met his resurrected brother, he knew He was Lord – and here is what he said – “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and *receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*”

- That's how you are saved . . . receiving the Word of Christ, about you and about Him . . .

Meekness as a Characteristic – is a fruit of the Holy Spirit . . .

Galatians 5:22-25 – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”