



KINGDOM CHARACTER

“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK”

MATTHEW 5:5

- I. INTRODUCTION: JESUS, THE RADICAL MESSENGER WITH A RADICAL MESSAGE...
- A. Preaching _____ to those who were “sinless” (4:17)
 - B. Preaching blessings to the “poor in spirit” (5:3)...theirs alone being the kingdom
 - C. Preaching blessings to those who _____ over sin (5:4)...promises of comfort
 - D. Preaching that the meek will inherit the earth which God owns (5:5)
 - 1. Knowing His audience was none of these things...but instead were:
 - a. Religiously proud blind guides (Mt. 23:24)
 - b. Pharisaically _____ sufficient...(Lk. 18:11)...temple prayer...
 - c. Hypocritically pious and ...(Mt. 23:27)...whited sepulchres
 - d. Excellent in “God-talk”(2 Tim. 3:7)
 - e. Having form but no power (2 Tim. 3:5)
 - f. Having replaced all God’s holy standards with _____ opinions (15:6)
 - g. A generation of vile deadly scornful serpents (Mt. 23:33, 37)
 - i. Who constantly killed God’s prophets
 - ii. Who historically _____ and stoned God’s messengers
 - iii. Who forfeited His blessings through unbelief (Ps. 78:41)
 - 2. Knowing they all needed to repent (Mk. 1:15)
 - a. Have a total change of mind...drop the religion, rules, rituals...
 - b. To have a relationship with God, and receive the _____ of Christ
- II. INSTRUCTION: HAPPINESS AND MEEKNESS...(5:5)
- A. “Blessed”...
 - 1. The Jews wanted a _____ kingdom, trying to force Him to be king on earth
 - 2. The blessing of being free from Rome, yet conspiring with Rome to kill Him
 - 3. The mindset of the mixed multitude in Moses day...
 - a. Murmurers (Phil. 2:14)
 - b. Miracle-mongers (Mt. 12:39)
 - c. Mired in carnal agendas, “great expectations” of God (Mt. 11:17)
 - 4. But Jesus’ kingdom offer was not of this _____ (Jn. 18:36)
 - a. As God’s ways are never man’s ways
 - b. Isa. 55:6-11...religion always misses the lesson God’s teaching
 - B. “Meek”...
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1. Mourning over sin that leads to brokenness (v4)...
 - a. Focuses on our sinfulness
 - b. Ps. 32; 51
2. Meekness instead focuses on _____ holiness
 - a. People poor in spirit know they are hopelessly spiritually bankrupt (v3)
 - b. Leading to a humble, heartfelt mourning over their sin (v4)
 - c. Opening the eyes of the _____ soul to His holiness (v5)
 - i. Note the pattern of progression in the attitudes of heart
 - ii. Know that preaching truth is the _____ for this battle for the souls that Jesus came to seek and save (4:17; Lk. 19:10; 2 Tim. 4:2)
 - iii. Remember the simple pattern that sinners who are repentant have no problem bowing in submission to God's holy calling of gracious salvation (Ro. 10:9-10)
 - iv. Cf. 1Pe. 1:16; 2 Pe. 3:11; 2 Cor. 7:1
3. Meekness is one of the Spirit's holy fruits (Gal. 5:22)
 - a. The norm for Christian living (Mt. 7:16)
 - b. A daily pattern (Eph. 4:1-2) of lowliness, servanthood (Phil. 2:5ff.)
 - c. Controlling the _____ (Titus 3:2)
 - i. The great revealer of the heart
 - ii. Mt. 12:33-34
 - d. Proving we are His dearly beloved merciful children (Col. 3:12)
 - e. Fostering a deeply satisfied life of fulfillment (Ps. 22:26)
 - f. Increasing our _____ as we grow in meekness (Isa. 29:19)
 - g. Granting our soft hearts daily guidance for decision-making (Ps. 25:9)
4. Meekness was one of Jesus' strengths, consequently ours too (Mt. 11:28-30)
 - a. As we are _____ yoked to Him in understanding (Prov. 14:6)
 - b. Declared as He rode into Jerusalem on an ass (Mt. 21:5)
 - i. Demonstrating the _____ of humility
 - ii. As meekness is strength under control (a broken horse, e.g.)
 - iii. Letting God control our spirit is the essence of meekness
 - a) Prov. 25:28
 - b) Prov. 16:32
 - c. Peter learned this the hard way (1 Pe. 2:20-25)...stubborn sheep...
 - d. Abraham learned this after being deceptive, calling his wife his sister
 - i. He later in meekness allowed Lot to choose the land he wanted
 - ii. And God superabundantly blessed him for his meekness(faith)
 - iii. Gen. 13; Ro. 12:10...giving preference to one another in honor

- e. Joseph fully demonstrated this in the way he treated his evil conspiring brothers (Gen. 50:20) as _____ empowered him to be merciful
 - i. Micah 6:8
 - ii. Mt. 5:7
 - f. David showed this with Saul when he could have killed him
- C. "Inherit the earth"...
- 1. Eternal perspective (Ecc. 3:11; Eph. 1:3)
 - 2. God's in charge...faith (Mt. 6:33; Ro. 8:31-32))
 - 3. _____ in grace (I Cor. 3:21-23)
 - 4. As God shines our lights as proof we are His messengers (Ps. 149:4)
 - a. Note the key point here...only the meek can be saved (Ps. 51:17)
 - b. Cf. Zeph. 2:3...meek...seekers after truth!
 - c. Cf. Jas. 1:21...meek, teachable hearts...good soil!
 - 5. As God uses this to empower witnessing (I Pe. 3:15)

III. INSIGHT: ARE YOU MEEK (CHRISTLIKE)?

- A. How do you react when offended? (Mt. 5:11-12)
- B. Do you keep _____ accounts, repenting quickly, often? (2 Cor. 7:10)
- C. Do you hate self and sin? (Ro. 7:24)
- D. Do you receive spiritual criticism well and appreciate those who gave it? (Prov. 9:8)
- E. Are you a peacemaker (Mt. 5:9)?
- F. Do you daily pray for _____ crucifixion, knowing you need resurrection life (Gal. 6:14)?