

September 23, 2018

Speaker: Tim McCardel

Message Series: Finding... Joy

Today's Message: Joyful Are The... Gentle

The Beatitudes: [Latin: a state of happiness] - were _____ and perplexing to Jesus' hearers and are rejected by many today.

Matthew 5:5 "Blessed are the gentle (meek), for they shall inherit the earth."

Two Reality Checks:

- 1) Many try shortcuts to finding joy: they forget that what happens _____ us is more important than what happens _____ us.
- 2) If I'm not Reborn—there is no power to live in meekness—and if no meekness, there can be no genuine happiness.

1. What Is This Gentle/Meekness?

1) **Not a human nature quality:** ("nice person"); but the living presence of Jesus Christ being actively in control

* 1 Peter 2:21, 25 "For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow His steps."

* Matthew 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart..."

2) "**Gentleness**" - A very rare word before Christianity: a _____ of the changing power of Christ

* James 3:17 "But the wisdom that comes from above is first of all pure; then peace-loving, gentle at all times..."

3) **Meekness Involves Yielded/Surrender** - Matthew 10:39 "He that loses (or abandons) his life... shall find it."

* Romans 6:19 "For as you have yielded your members as slaves to impurity... so now yield yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness."

4) **Meekness Doesn't _____ or Condemn** - Ephesians 4:2 "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient bearing with one another in love."

2. Biblical Examples of Meekness In Action

1) **Abraham:** let his nephew Lot take the best land for the sake of their having a good testimony.
(Genesis 13:5-9)

2) **Joseph:** sold by brothers into slavery, became second only to Pharaoh, now able to destroy them.

Genesis 50:20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to save the lives of many people."

3) **David:** chosen by God to become the new King, chased by King Saul, could have killed Saul.

1 Samuel 24:5, 6 “Afterward, David was conscious-stricken... He said to his men, “The Lord knows I shouldn't have done that to my lord the King...”

3. Our Need For Meekness

1) **Required for salvation**—Psalm 149:4 “For the Lord takes delight in His people, He crowns the humble with salvation.”

* Matthew 18:2-4

2) **It's a command**—Zephaniah 2:3 “Seek the Lord... seek humility.”

3) **We Turn Off Lost Without It**—1 Peter 3:15

4) **True Meekness Brings Glory to God**—Romans 15:5-7