

Title: Who is Really Calm?

Text Matthew 5:5

Tonight, we come to the third beatitude. Turn in your Bibles, please, to Matthew chapter 5. Our subject tonight is : HOW TO BE CALM?

I was ask once, HOW DO YOU REMAIN SO CALM BEFORE YOU PREACH? And I replied: WHOSE CALM.....

It never ceases to amaze me how often the Lord brings things into our lives to test us and to see how calm we really are...

By way of background, let's remember that we are talking about a state or a condition that is already in a believer's life. And thst is...that you are "BLESSED". That is your position. And this position of being blessed does not depend upon circumstances. It depends upon God. It is internal. It is not external. You see, when you talk about POSITION, you are talking about something that you already have in Christ. You are blessed.

O.K. Matthew chater 5 verse 5... (Read)

Prayer

Our Father in heaven we thank you for your Word that we can open here tonight and know that we have the truth. You have told us that your Word is truth. And we know that the truth will make us free. Father, we confess that we are bound-up by many of the things that we experience. Our reaction to circumstances only reveals how little we know about spiritual growth. So, Fther, we pray that you would continue to teach us. Help us to see that happiness is not related to circumstances or things; but happiness is related to doing your will. And Father, as we come to your Word, we are anxious to know the secrets which will unlock this blessed condition which is ours in Christ Jesus. Help us to know more about our position in Christ. And help us to walk by faith in what we already are in Him. And we thannk you in the name of Jesus.....Amen

Matthew 5:5 is a quotation from Psalms 37:11. Jesus often quoted from the O.T.

This beatitude ~~is~~ says in the KJ text: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." Some translations, such as the NAS use the word "Gentle" instead of "meek." It means the same. "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth."

Now, remember, that all of these beatitudes are, ^{in the level} future, with the exception of the first and the last beatitude. They are in the present tense. In the first and the eighth beatitude we read "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven." But the other beatitudes are all future. This doesn't mean that we cannot experience them. It simply means that we can experience them only as we fulfill the practice. The practice of being poor in spirit, or, "mourning" or "being meek".. When we do that, then the promise ^{will be} is fulfilled.

(1B) The question before us is: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE MEEK? ^{Gentle} If I am blessed in being meek, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ~~MEEK~~ ^{Gentle}?

(1C) First of all, I want to look at it negatively. Because most people when they hear the word "meek" put into the Word of God ^{what they} ~~they hear, or, what they have seen, or, what they have experienced,~~ ^{believe the word means} and thus assume this is what the Bible is saying. And that is not necessarily true.

(1D) O.K. First of all, meekness is not the absence of anger. The Bible teaches that Christ was ~~the meekness of all men.~~ And yet He got angry. A lot of people believe that if a person doesn't show any anger he is, therefore, meek. That is not the meaning of the word.

(2D) Secondly, meekness ^{meekness} it does not refer to an attitude of passiveness that leads to apathy. Now, remember that a lot of us have natural traits and natural talents. Or, we have acquired talents or acquired skills. But, this doesn't necessarily mean that the Holy Spirit is working in us.

Example: (genetical) a child may be born and it seems that he is an introvert or very passive. So... ^{The parent} a ~~person~~ might conclude: Well, ^{my son} ~~he~~ is a meek ~~manchild~~

The meekness that is described in the beatitude is a quality of the Holy Spirit. It doesn't relate to personality traits that you and I may or may not have. You see, this is very important. It is not referring to someone who is passive all the time, or, apathetic about things.

A person said once, "You know, things just don't bother me anymore. I could care less." And right away he told me that he didn't have meekness.

Because

Meekness really does care. You may have a personality trait that appears to others to be meek, but there may be no meekness at all in you from the standpoint of the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit. This is very important to understand.

(3D) And of course, as you have probably already guessed, meekness is not weakness. Some people hear about "meek people" and assume they are "weak" people. Jesus was in no way "weak." Moses was in no way weak. And yet, Moses was called the meekness man that every lived.

(4D) Fourth, ~~meekness~~ meekness is not merely the outward actions of being a gentleman. Now, some folks use this idea to teach meekness. And that is not the meaning of the word.

(5D) Fiveth, Meekness is not a natural attribute of man.

Some people have the idea that some folks have meekness and some do not. We look at ^{The Beatitudes} ~~this sermon on the mount~~ and some Bible students have categorized 8 different types of individuals. That is not true. We are talking about what should be true in the life of every believer. Because the ministry of the Holy Spirit is working in us.

(2C) O.K. if that is what meekness is not, then on the positive side, what is it?

My

There is one thing that I found extremely interesting in the usage of this word "meekness." In ancient times it was used of wild animals that had been domesticated. And it reminded me of how much our wild old sin nature needs to be domesticated. ~~And~~ you see, ~~God~~ when he produces meekness within us is domesticating the old sin nature.

Now, some people on the surface may appear to be mild mannered. But, they remind me much of Clark Kent when he saps into that telephone booth and come out in some different manner. You see, a lot of us in the hour of pressure and need, ~~we~~ ^{we} demonstrate the wildness of the old sin nature. We become angry and bitter. And all along we are demonstrating that we are untamed and wild at heart. And we need the meekness of God's Holy Spirit.

(1D) So, first of all, we learn from Galatians 5:23 that meekness is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says that the fruit of the Spirit is love: joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, joy, faith, meekness, and self-control, against such there is no law.

So, meekness is a part of the fruit of the Spirit. Now, some folks say, "Well, I have got love. And you have got meekness; And you have got long-suffering, and so forth.

Oh, no....The Bible says that all of that is the ~~the~~ fruit....not fruits(Plural), but fruit(singular). All nine characteristics make up the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

In other words, if you are walking under the control of the Holy Spirit there is meekness being produced in your life. It may not be at the level that God desires, because we lack some spiritual growth, but meekness is a part of the fruit of the Spirit.

(2D) Secondly, we have in Ephesians 4:2, which I would like you to look at,
and in Colossians 3:12....Meekness is put with humility. The two are related
together.

In Ephesians 4:2 Paul is encouraging us to walk worthy of the calling
in which we have been called. In other words, we have all been called unto God
and are a part of the Body of Christ. Now, we are to walk worthy of that calling.
Make sure your life measures up with your walk.

Vs 2...Paul tells you how.."with all lowliness"...that is our word
"humility". "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven." And then with "meekness"....Lowliness or humility put with meekness.
You find the same thing in reference to Jesus in Matthew 11 where Jesus said:
"I am meek and lowly in heart." Meekness and humility are often put together.

And the same thing is taught in Col, 3:12.

(3D) Third, turn, please to Titus chapter 3. Here we learn that meekness is the
very opposite of getting even.

Talk about something that hits the sore spot in people's lives. Somebody
says something against or about us, or treats us in a bad way. And we want to
get even. Though we might not express it that way. We look down on them, or, we
break fellowship with them. And we say things to others about them. Oh, we do
many things in order to satisfy the old sin nature which must get even.

Now, if you think you don't have that temptation, I instruct you from
the Word of God that the Bible teaches that...all..of..us..have the capacity
of getting even. There isn't a person here who isn't subject to the old sin
nature that wants to vindicate itself and get even every time it is hurt. If
you think that somebody is misrepresenting you, or, not being truthful about you,
the old sin nature is that part of us that wants to strighten it out. Instead
of leaving it to God. Instead of seeing that God is causing that towards us to
form and mold our lives. That we actually needed that....It is much like
sandpaper, it causes friction; but, it is also rounding off our rough edges....
And that is how those things are to our lives when God is behind them,
Meekness is the opposite of getting even.

~~Meekness~~
This is the

~~And that is how these things are to our lives when God is behind them. This is the opposite of getting even.~~

Here is an interesting passage... Titus 3:2 "to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men."... Notice: it says "all men." Not just a few put "all men".

Vs 3... "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish"... meaning: we were not gentle and meek... "disobedient, deceived, serving divers lust and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another."

So, I learn something from this text in Titus 2: that meekness is the opposite of an angry, speaking evil, brawling type spirit, that is always wanting to get even.

Now you will find the same concept over in James 3. Turn to James 3:13-17, where the wisdom of God is being unfolded to us. God tells us that the way to show that you are a wise man is that your works will have a ~~meekness~~ ^{meekness} of wisdom.

(Read James 3:13-14 - 15a)

Notice that.... if you have an ~~envy~~ ^{envious} spirit, there is strife in your heart, he said don't be proud of that. And don't start lying against the truth. Don't go around telling people that it is O.K. It is just a little bit of righteous anger.... OH... NO.... "Don't lie against the truth." The Bible says that that bitter envying and strife is in your heart and it is not coming from above.

Where is it coming from?... Vs 15.. "It is earthly, sensual, devilish." ... It is the attitude of satan.... Know it.. understand it... be aware of it..

~~Read Vs 16-17~~ (Read Vs 16-17)

The content, Vs 13, is showing out of your life a meekness of wisdom; and contrasting it with the wrong kind of wisdom which is bitter envy, strife in your heart, trying to get even. Result:.... confusion and every evil work... And this shows you are being controlled by Satan not by God.... Very important.... Meekness is the opposite of getting even.

You don't have to vindicate yourself.... You don't have to get even. You don't have to correct a bad situation. God will do that.... And that is one of the hardest lessons to learn....

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You see, a meek person has learned that his confidence is in the Lord, not in man. And he is not worried about what man may say. For the Christian knows that he is in a blessed condition; and the quality which the Holy Spirit produces is meekness. Not a desire to get even.

(4D) The fourth thing is that meekness is a basic attitude in receiving the Word of God. This I find very interesting. Turn to James chapter 1. Meekness is a basic attitude in receiving the Word of God. Many of us are studying the Bible and receiving it consistently day after day. Yet, the Bible says we have to have meekness in order to receive it. James chapter 1 verse 19 says.... "THIS YOU KNOW, MY BELOVED BRETHREN. BUT LET EVERY ONE BE QUICK TO HEAR, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO ANGER."

Wow!!! That is how we all react to others right?.....WRONG!!! We are just the opposite. Slow to hear, quick to speak and quick to anger."

God said, "Listen, I want you to be just the opposite. And I want you to know this...Vs 20..."for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." In other words, it is working against what God wants to do in your life. Vs 21...."Therefore putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility(that is your word meekness) in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

Now, the Word of God which saves me in the first place, also saves me constantly. It is that Word which produces in me the quality of life which God wants in my life. But, notice, I need meekness to receive it.

Now, what is that? Because you know if you really read the Bible and you really study it, it is going to hit you right between the eyes.

You see, God is telling us to have the quality of meekness even in receiving the Inspired Word. Because if you don't, you will close up the Bible and say, "OH, THAT ISN'T TRUE! I AM GOING TO RUN MY OWN LIFE. I DON'T NEED GOD."

You don't have the meekness to receive it. You can't take it when God dishes it out. You can't receive it when God says what you are really like. You say, "Hay! I am not like that."....And you war against God. And you struggle and fight....Friends, we need meekness to receive the inspired Word of God.....

(5D) Then over in 2 Timothy chapter 2, we learn that meekness is necessary in witnessing. Now, I would like to be as helpful as I can. Many times Christians are making mistakes in witnessing and offending people. Now, if people are offended because of the offenses of the Cross, well, that is one thing. But, if they are offended because of the way we are talking to them, or our attitude, that is another matter.

Paul wrote, "Give no offense to anyone." Don't let people be offended by your disposition. Let them be offended because of the message of the cross. But, never at your disposition or attitude. Thus, we need meekness in witnessing. And here is a good example in proclaiming the Word of God. 2 Tim. 2:24 says... "And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness (meekness) correcting those who are in opposition, "if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth."

Notice God works when you are teaching with meekness by responding with repentence in their lives. Here is a warning to Christians. Don't strive... don't get uptight... because if you witness in meekness towards those who are opposing, God will give repentence to the acknowledging of the truth. The servant of God must not strive but be patience. A tremendous truth.

3 (6D) dumber ^{True} ~~s~~ in terms of the positive qualities of meekness. Galations 6:1 teaches us that meekness gives to us an attitude that never looks down on another person.... Gal. 6:1 says "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourselves lest you too be tempted."

Whenever you have the opportunity to share with another believer who seemly has been over taken in a fault, be every careful about the spirit in which you do it. Some times you must be firm. But be sweetly firm. If some one has been over taken in a fault talk to them in the spirit of meekness. Don't think of yourslef as being spiritual and he is carnal. Oh, listen, that attitude is terrible. That is not the spirit of meekness. Some people feel that they are God's special gift to the world to strighten out everybody. Hay! get that attitude out of your life

Listen, you come with a humble heart, a heart that knows at any moment you can fall into the same sin. Consider thy self, least ~~they~~ you also be tempted. The spirit of meekness makes a person very much aware of the sin in his own heart; and how easy it is to fall under temptation. He is trusting the Lord and His power; and he is doing so in a spirit of meekness.

4) (D) Now, number ⁴ 7, real meekness do not seek to defend itself or to seek vindication. It loves and desires no harm to anyone.

The Lord showed me a tremendous thing from Numbers 12. Would you turn there, please. In Numbers chapter 12 we have perhaps the greatest example of meekness in all of God's Word.

(read Number 12:1-15)

What a story. Moses was meek through this whole experience. ~~That~~ ^{ok} what ~~do~~ we learn about Moses? Here, his brother and Miriam challenge his authority. "Hay, Moses, you think you are the only one around here that God is speaking to? How about us? God can speak to us also."

And the Bible says that there is no reaction from Moes. He is a meek man. He didn't try to defend himself.

In fact the beautiful thing, here, is that after they were completely judged by God, Moes intercedes in their behalf. He didn't turn upon Aron and Miriam and say, "Hay, you are just getting what you deserve." After all, you shouldn't have attacked me."

Yet, how many times do we think that in our hearts? The Bible says that Love doesn't rejoice in sin.....Some dear ~~chaisian~~ is suffering because of their sin, maybe, and we start rejoicing. Well, they had it coming to them....Thus, we do not reveal the spirit of meekness in us.

Moes said to God, "Oh God ^{heal} ~~her~~ her, I pray!" WHAT AN ATTITUDE...

The love that is behind meekness doesn't seek to harm anyone. It doesn't rejoice in the suffering of anyone. And this is a tremendous principle to live by.....

(2B) Now, some promises to the meek.

(1C) In Psalms 22:26, Complete satisfaction **is** promised to the meek

(Read Ps 22:26)

Notice, the point of this passage. Everybody eats. The meek eat and they are satisfied. God promises satisfaction. It says "those who seek him will praise the Lord and their heart will live forever."

There is a wonderful satisfaction for the meek.

(2C) Secondly, look at chapter 25:9.. "He leads the meek in justice. And he teaches the humble(meek) His way."

And I learn that you need meekness in order to be taught by God. Some people are not teachable because they do not have the spirit of meekness. We need meekness to be taught the ways of the Lord. So guidance and teaching is promised to those who are meek.

(3C) Third, Psalm 147:6.....Strength is promised to the meek

(read 147:5-6)

(4C) Psalms 149:4...beauty in salvation.....(read 149:4)

You know some people are saved, but they are not so attractive. I am not talking about outside appearance, but I am talking about disposition. The meek are blessed with beauty of salvation.

(5C) Finally Psalms 37:11 which is quoted in Matthew 5:5, That is that the meek shall inherit the earth.

What does that mean?...To conquer the world....NO.....

(1D) First, it means that one day as believers who have a blessed condition, those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are meek, we will one day inherit the earth because the inheritance belongs to Christ and we are joint-heirs with him.

(2D) But also, inheriting the earth has in it the idea of possessing all that God really has for your life, *right now*.

Meek is the one who enjoys life to its fullest. He is the one who enjoys God's plan in his life. He is inheriting all things that God has promised for him in this life. Meaning on earth.

He is enjoying what he has in Christ, because he is accepting it as a meek man.

§3B) One more thought, Would you turn to Matthew chapter 11. A person may sit and say, "O.K., I am suppose to be meek, but how do I do it.

How do I have meekness in my life?" — (Use Philip 2)

(Read Matt 11:28)-30)

~~Now I know the thought~~ You know, the Lord really challenged me with the light of himself in meekness. He said: "learn from me, for I am meek and lowly."

And if you study the life of Christ, I am sure you will notice the great number of times our Lord had every right to really tell a person off.. The way he was treated... People accused him of being possessed by a demon. He is reviled and threatened. Yet, we read that he didn't strick back. We read in the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus taught us to resist evil. If someone hits you on the right check, turn your left check.

But, we laugh at that and make joks about it. Instead of learning about Christ. I am meek and lowely of heart and you shall find rest.

I want rest. I want to have peace in my life. I want to be happy. Jesus said, "Learn from me and you shall find it.

But, Notice, there is a condition... Jesus said: "take my yoke upon you."

And you know that is the hardest thing we have to do. Because it cuts right accross the grain of the self that wants to live its own life/ Take my yoke upon you. He said "My yoke is easy." The word "easy" means ~~take my yoke upon you~~ well fitted. Jesus was a carpenter. He had made many yokes. He said, ^{its yoke} it is just right for you. It is just what you need. ^{So,} Don't think of it as a burden and a trail. Think of it as a blessing. It is just right fiffed for you. All your suffering, all your testing, all the pressure that is on your right now, is just what you need. Learn of me and you will find rest for your souls.

Shall we close in prayer