

The Messiah Has Come
Week 12
Matthew 5:5-6
“The Beatitudes of Submission and Trust”

Introduction

Trust in The LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding: in all your ways know Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

As Christ preached *The Sermon on The Mount*, He revealed to the crowds the pathway to true and everlasting happiness (*Makarios* in the Greek). And everything He taught them was the exact opposite of how this world operates. The world will tell you “*Take pride in yourself. Crying and brokenness are for losers. And the only earth the meek will ever inherit is a six foot plot in some cemetery. So be assertive and take what you can get for yourself. Live for pleasure, and throw the rule book out the window. The rules are for sheep. Be a wolf and take what is rightfully yours.*” How foreign to this world’s so-called “wisdom” are the words of The Savior, preserved for us in Matthew’s gospel.

But if the world has it all figured out, then why do the majority of its inhabitants seem to be so very miserable and discontented. How many of them get to the end of it all and ask the age old question, “Is this all there is?” If the world holds all the secrets to happiness, then why aren’t they... happy? The answer is simple. The pleasures of this world are fleeting and last only for a moment. And lasting happiness will not be found in the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, or the pride of life:

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of The Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions — is not from The Father, but is from the world. And the world with all its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Sadly, very few today will hear, and follow the wisdom of The Savior, and find lasting joy and peace; for they are consumed, blinded by the adversary of all truth. While thinking they are independent, and therefore, “going their own way”, they are actually following the masses to their own destruction. There is nothing independent about following the world’s crowd and heeding the advice of worldly wisdom. If you truly want to be a rebel, if you want to swim against the current, as they say, **then follow Christ**. Ours is the road less traveled. Ours is to go against the grain. And ours is the only path to peace and life everlasting.

Who among you is wise and understanding? By his good conduct he should show that his works are done in the gentleness that comes from wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your heart, don’t boast and deny the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there is disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace. James 3:13-18

Sure sounds like James “*gets it*”. Sounds like he was a Believer in the Sermon on The Mount! The World can never satisfy the longings of your thirsty soul. But Christ Jesus can. And His ways, are not the ways of this world, my friends. So let us continue our study on how to be happy according to Jesus, as we discover the truth behind the next two beatitudes, which have to do with having a trusting and submissive spirit: *Blessed are The Humble*, and *Blessed are The Hungry*.

Blessed Are The Humble (vs. 5)

Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:5

According to Christ, the pathway that leads to lasting happiness comes from a place of humility. The first two beatitudes teach us that we first must see ourselves for who we are, sinners in need of a Savior, and then become broken enough to seek God's forgiveness. So after these things, the next logical step is to acknowledge that doing things our way doesn't work. We need to be led. We need someone to guide us in the right direction, for we have discovered that when we are "in charge", as it were, then the results are disastrous.

There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.

Proverbs 14:12

So, there it is, in black and white, so to speak. Our ways cannot lead us to everlasting happiness. And once we face this fact, we must put someone else in charge of our direction. In short, we confess with our mouth that *Jesus is LORD...* (**Romans 10:9**). We then ask **Him** to be in charge instead of us! In order to do that, we must relinquish control of our lives over to His capable hands. That means that we must humble ourselves so that He can lead.

The word for "humility or humble" in *The New Testament* Greek is "*prays*" (pronounced *prah-ooce*), and it is often translated as "*meek*". In fact, those of us who grew up in church have heard it said over and over again, "*the meek shall inherit the earth.*" To the world's way of thinking, *meekness* is synonymous with *weakness*, but nothing could be further from the truth. When I was younger, I used to ride and train horses. A horse is one of the strongest animals on the planet. They can pull loads much heavier than themselves, and when panicked they can actually run through a wall! Truth is, a horse's strength can be a frightening thing at times.

In order to be able to break a horse to pull or ride, its handler must somehow gain mastery over the animal. Now, all of us have seen cowboy movies where the "bronc rider" climbs upon a wild horse and rides it into submission. And while that is one way of doing it, the far better way is to work gently with the animal until it learns to trust you. Once that happens, the horse, who is at least fifty times stronger than its owner will yield over its great strength to the one it trusts. It is actually an amazing thing to see how this happens. And anyone who ever has worked with horses actually feels honored that such an incredible and noble creature will surrender its will over to them in this way.

The point of the illustration is simple, the horse doesn't become "weaker" when it surrenders in meekness to its rider. It simply yields over its strength. Why? Because it has placed its trust in its master. The same is true for the Believer in Jesus Christ. A man isn't weak to surrender Himself to Christ. He is simply being wise, for Christ is far more qualified to lead us than we will ever be, when left to our own devices. Can I get a witness?

So, to be meek is to have a gentle spirit (see **Galatians 5:23-23**). We do not take the aggressive stance. We do not fight for our own rights. We do not seek revenge on those who wrong us, and we do not force our way to the front of the line, as it were. But rather, we place all those things in the hands of The Master. We follow where He leads, and we trust Him with the outcome for:

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

You will never have to fight to get your own way, when you know that God is fighting... *for you!*

If you want to see meekness in its most perfect form, just look at our LORD on the night before He went to the cross. He knew all that lay ahead of Him, and how terrible the trial was that He had been called upon to endure. In His humanity, no doubt He wanted to be able to run away from such a trial, but rather than take matters into His own hands, He prayed instead:

"...nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done."

Luke 22:42b

Do not think for a moment that The LORD of all creation could not have used His mighty power to put a stop to all of it. He needed only to speak the word. But He yielded His power over to The One in Whom He put His trust, The Father Who loved Him more than anything. And that, my friends, is what **meekness** looks like. Strength yielded over to another's control. And without that, no one will ever find salvation and everlasting life. So meekness, most definitely leads to everlasting joy and peace.

Meekness isn't just a *New Testament* concept by the way. Read **Psalm 37** and see how David, a man that was more than a little familiar with hardship, says over and over again how those who humbly submit themselves to The LORD will inherit His blessings. In fact, let's read it together and see just how this beautiful psalm is woven into the very fabric of the sermon on the mount.

Psalm 37

Instruction in Wisdom

Of David.

**Do not be agitated by evildoers; do not envy those who do wrong.
For they wither quickly like grass and wilt like tender green plants.**

Trust in the Lord and do what is good; dwell in the land and live securely.

Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you your heart's desires.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act, making your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like the noonday.

Be silent before the Lord and wait expectantly for Him; do not be agitated by one who prospers in his way, by the person who carries out evil plans.

**Refrain from anger and give up your rage; do not be agitated — it can only bring harm.
For evildoers will be destroyed, but those who put their hope in the Lord will inherit the land.**

A little while, and the wicked person will be no more; though you look for him, he will not be there. But the humble will inherit the land and will enjoy abundant prosperity.

**The wicked person schemes against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him.
The Lord laughs at him because He sees that his day is coming.**

The wicked have drawn the sword and strung the bow to bring down the poor and needy and to slaughter those whose way is upright. Their swords will enter their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.

**The little that the righteous person has is better than the abundance of many wicked people.
For the arms of the wicked will be broken, but the Lord supports the righteous.**

**The Lord watches over the blameless all their days, and their inheritance will last forever.
They will not be disgraced in times of adversity; they will be satisfied in days of hunger.**

But the wicked will perish; the Lord's enemies, like the glory of the pastures, will fade away — they will fade away like smoke.

**The wicked person borrows and does not repay, but the righteous one is gracious and giving.
Those who are blessed by the Lord will inherit the land, but those cursed by Him will be destroyed.**

**A person's steps are established by the Lord, and He takes pleasure in his way.
Though he falls, he will not be overwhelmed, because the Lord supports him with his hand.**

I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous abandoned or his children begging for bread.

He is always generous, always lending, and his children are a blessing.

Turn away from evil, do what is good, and settle permanently. For the Lord loves justice and will not abandon His faithful ones. They are kept safe forever, but the children of the wicked will be destroyed. The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it permanently.

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; his tongue speaks what is just. The instruction of his God is in his heart; his steps do not falter.

The wicked one lies in wait for the righteous and intends to kill him; the Lord will not leave him in the power of the wicked one or allow him to be condemned when he is judged.

Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land. You will watch when the wicked are destroyed.

I have seen a wicked, violent person well-rooted, like a flourishing native tree. Then I passed by and noticed he was gone; I searched for him, but he could not be found.

Watch the blameless and observe the upright, for the person of peace will have a future. But transgressors will all be eliminated; the future of the wicked will be destroyed.

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, their refuge in a time of distress.

The Lord helps and delivers them; He will deliver them from the wicked and will save them because they take refuge in Him.

So what does it actually mean to say, “The meek will inherit the earth”? Simply put, it means when Christ comes and brings judgment upon the wicked, the only ones who will be left standing, as it were, are those who have submitted themselves to His Lordship. That is when the meek will inherit the earth!

Blessed Are The Hungry (vs. 6)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Matthew 5:6

The next logical step in trusting Christ to guide you in all things is to long for His commands to permeate your life. There can be no such thing as a Spirit-filled Believer that does not long to obey God. As we have already stated, these “beatitudes” are the natural progression of a person who comes to Christ for salvation. The Savior promises that those who are led by The Spirit to hunger for the righteousness of God will be filled. This is simply another way of describing the sanctification process that transforms a Believer, as He walks with God. The Spirit does a work in us, so that we are never the same.

To be hungry and thirsty for righteousness, literally means to be hungry and thirsty for God Himself; to have all of God and for Him to have all of you. It means to closely follow Him wherever He leads. This should be the natural desire of someone, who has been transformed by The Spirit. They long to draw closer and closer to The LORD through prayer and meditation upon His Word. And when this happens as Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, we go “from glory to glory!”

We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of The LORD and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from The LORD Who is The Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:18

As I was preparing for this message this week, I was reminded of a Scripture in *The Old Testament* that speaks of the children of Israel as The LORD led them through the wilderness. I was struck by the imagery, and I would like to share that passage with you today.

On the day the tabernacle was set up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the testimony, and it appeared like a fire above the tabernacle from evening until morning. It remained that way continuously: the cloud would cover it, appearing like fire at night. Whenever the cloud was lifted up above the tent, the Israelites would set out; at the place where the cloud stopped, there the Israelites camped. At the LORD's command the Israelites set out, and at The LORD's command they camped. As long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle, they camped.

Even when the cloud stayed over the tabernacle many days, the Israelites carried out The LORD's requirement and did not set out. Sometimes the cloud remained over the tabernacle for only a few days. They would camp at the LORD's command and set out at the LORD's command. Sometimes the cloud remained only from evening until morning; when the cloud lifted in the morning, they set out. Or if it remained a day and a night, they moved when the cloud lifted. Whether it was two days, a month, or longer, the Israelites camped and did not set out as long as the cloud stayed over the tabernacle. But when it was lifted, they set out. They camped at The LORD's command, and they set out at The LORD's command. They carried out The LORD's requirement according to His command through Moses.

Numbers 9:15-23

Now, let that sink in for a moment. While these people were traveling through the wilderness, every moment of their lives was dictated by God Himself. When God moved, they moved. When God paused, they paused. That is what true submission looks like. It comes when God has been given full control over our every move. And when we humbly submit to His leading, every path upon which He leads us will be the path of righteousness! Blessed are the humble, for they shall inherit the earth, and blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled! These two beatitudes are all about submission. And without it, we wander aimlessly in the wilderness. To move when God moves and to stay where God stays is the true path to happiness. Because, as He has said:

What should I bring before The LORD when I come to bow before God on high? Should I come before Him with burnt offerings, with year-old calves? Would The LORD be pleased with thousands of rams or with ten thousand streams of oil? Should I give my firstborn for my transgression, the offspring of my body for my own sin? Mankind, He has told each of you what is good and what is it The LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:6-8

Let us all in one accord declare to The LORD: "Where you go, I'll go. Where you stay, I'll stay. When you move, I'll move. I will follow You."

TRUTH!!!