# **The Beatitudes- Part 4 - The Meek**

Pastor Carl Van Vliet

Sermon on the Mount / The Beatitudes / Matthew 5:3–16; Matthew 5:3–12

# [Matthew 5:3-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.3-16)

Today we turn to verse #5 - “5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.”

Meekness is ***NOT*** Horizontal. Remember we talked early on about how these first four Beatitudes are vertical, the last four are horizontal. The first four directly relate to our relationship with God.

The first four beatitudes inform the last four. What does that mean, it means the first four create the context for the last four to become a reality. you cant have the last four beatitudes manifest in your life without the first four Beatitudes manifested in your life.

Most will read this and think externally and horizontally thinking this is meekness towards others. It’s NOT.

The Beatitudes as a whole pertain to the Deeper Life. Deeper Spiritual Life. Somehow the idea of a deeper spiritual life is something that is only attained by those special believers who are super spiritual, nay it is not so, the Deeper Spiritual life is to be the NORMAL Spiritual Life of EVERY Believer. The reason the “Normal” Spiritual life of the believer is NOT the deeper Spiritual life Jesus calls us to is because we have CREATED a spiritual norm that is divorced from the Deeper life in Christ.

Al Mohler said recently following the SBC Convention that our church culture has been for years where you could give people three pragmatic choices and one theological choice and people would naturally gravitate to the pragmatic choices and it takes time for people to begin to want to move towards a theological choice.

• Pragmatic - of or relating to a practical point of view or practical considerations.

We want to make these teachings of Jesus to fit into a pragmatic box right, something we can do. Yes or no, do I have time for that task, do I want to do that task, you get the idea. We want them to be imperatives. Stuff we do because that’s easy right. Simple decision, yes or no. Give me a task and I can make a decision about that, give me something abstract and theological and we gravitate away from that because it deals with issues internally to our heart condition.
And here we find ourselves today thinking pragmatically saying “I need to be meek”

What even is Meek?

[**Matthew 5:5**](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.5) **Compared:**

**NASB95 “Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.**

**NLT “God blesses those who are humble, for they will inherit the whole earth.**

**CEV “God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!”**

LSB “Blessed are the **lowly**, for they shall inherit the earth.”

TLB “The **meek and lowly** are fortunate and the whole wide world belongs to them:”

Now we see some translations translate that Greek word for Meek as Humble, like the NLT but there is a word for Humble, the Greek word ταπεινόω (tapeinoō)[top-e-no] means to be humble.

We see another translation translate that Greek word for Meek as “Gentle” like the NASB95 but there is a Greek word for Gentle in the Bible ἐπιεικής (epieikēs)[epi-e-case]

Now if it is supposed to be humble why didn't Matthew use the word ταπεινόω (tapeinoō)[top-e-no]? And if it is supposed to be Gentle why didn't Matthew use the word ἐπιεικής (epieikēs)[epi-e-case]

 Now I like Cake. Who can tell that I like CAKE. Becky makes this cake, called the “Honeybun Cake” and I really, REALLY like that cake. But I know that cake is not a single ingredient. I cant just go to the store and get the “honeybun cake” ingredient. I suspect it has some flour in it, and perhaps some eggs, and oil and water or maybe milk and maybe some cream cheese… am I close Becky?

Cakes are amazing things. My family and I used to watch the Food network (Yes we are foodies) and there is this show called Cake Masters its a fellow named Duff Goldman’s show and this guy can make a cake now, let me tell you. What has always amazed me with these guys is they can bake a cake and never look at a recipe, any flavor, and type they know all the ingredients and exactly how to make this cake taste one way and that cake taste another way.

That’s the picture of meekness in each one of us. There is humility in it **yes**, and gentleness and there is a lowly spirit in meekness but God in His infinite wisdom puts together the **right amounts of each different quality in each of us to get the outcome of meekness He seeks**

Remember this is a vertical Beatitude, its about our relationship with God, it’s not pragmatic, it is intimate.

This Greek word πραΰς (praus) [Pri-eese] means **“Strength under control”** in classic Greek culture, it is a word used to describe a wild animal who has been made “Tame” like a wild Stallion.

A horse is broke to a bit that allows that horse to be controlled and there is a key verse in our understanding of meekness:

[Matthew 11:29](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt11.29) “29 T**ake My yoke upon you** and learn from Me, for I am gentle (Meek πραΰς (praus) [Pri-eese]) and lowly (Humble ταπεινόω (tapeinoō)[top-e-no]) in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

The real picture of meekness and why I am not trying to describe a horizontal characteristic we ought to have towards others, gentleness or humility or being mild or tender is because those things are not the point. Do they invariably come out, YES but if we focus there we begin to think Pragmatically not Spiritually.

The real picture of Meekness is found in that Key verse from [Matthew 11:29](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt11.29) “29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” The person who takes the **yoke of Christ** on is a person who is **led by, AND yielded to** the Holy Spirit in their lives.

See this is why Beatitude is vertical while it sounds like it should be horizontal. Because only God know the recipe to your personality and the way He made you and it won’t be the same recipe as what He needs to my personality and the Key is my being led by the Holy Spirit to become more Christ like in my horizontal relationships.

See we can try to be more humble in our own strength and never get there. We can try to be gentle and lowly and mild in varying degrees and never get there, it is only by being yielded to the Holy Spirit in my life and led into Christ likeness by Him that meekness becomes my nature.

For they will inherit the earth. Now I don't know about you but this doesn't sound like a great promise. Our earth right now doesn't seem too appealing.

This is a quote from the Old Testament:

[Psalm 37:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ps37.11) “11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the **abundance of peace**.”

Understand and remember Matthew is speaking primarily to Jews and a Jewish audience. Jewish culture and religion would recognize this language as referring to the promised land, synonymous with heaven and it has an eschatological perspective from Revelation:

[Revelation 21:1-4](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Re21.1-4) “1 **Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.** Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away**.””

Meekness is not characteristics pragmatically sought to be lived out in us, Meekness is God’s making in us when we take His yoke on and yield to His will in our lives.

Charles Wesley, famous hymn writer and brother of John Wesley famous revival preacher and founder of the Methodist church wrote this hymn in 1742 titled Gentle Jesus Meek and Mild:

1. Gentle Jesus, meek and mild, Look upon a little child; Pity my simplicity, Suffer me to come to Thee.

2. Lamb of God, I look to Thee; **Thou shalt my example be: Thou art gentle, meek and mild;** Thou wast once a little child.

3. **Fain I would be as Thou art; Give me Thine obedient heart:** Thou art pitiful and kind; **Let me have Thy loving mind.**

4. **Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb, In Thy gracious hands I am; Make me, Saviour, what Thou art,** Live Thyself within my heart.

Amen.

**Make me Saviour what though art, Meek and Gentle. Yielded and led by the Holy Spirit.**

**Revelation 21:1–4**

