



ICEBREAKER: If you had an unlimited shopping spree at only one store, which one would you choose? Why?

OVERVIEW: “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” The beatitudes describe the traits that Christ expects in His followers, and they are a treasure map to happiness. In this study we will learn more about how to live out the third beatitude. Meekness. What is it? How do you develop it? What does it mean to inherit the earth? Let’s find out.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Referencing your notes from Sunday’s sermon, jot down in your own words the meaning of this third beatitude and how it applies to your life.
3. Read Numbers 12. What was gentle about how Moses handled the situation? Why do you think he reacted this way? How do you think you might have reacted?
4. Read the story of David in 2 Samuel 16:5-14. David was king, but his son, Absalom was leading a rebellion against him in an attempt to overtake the throne. To spare his household and the city of Jerusalem from the horrors of warfare, David fled Jerusalem. How did David display gentleness in this story? What core beliefs and values did he have that enabled him to react this way? How might you have reacted?

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

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5. Why is meekness the key to influencing others? What are the benefits of meekness? Refer to the following verses if necessary: 2 Timothy 2:25; 1 Timothy 3:3-4; Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 3:1-4; 1 Peter 3:15-16; Proverbs 25:15; Galatians 6:1-2; Proverbs 15:1; Ecclesiastes 10:4.
6. Meekness is the fruit of the Spirit by which you are able to control your anger, reacting in a Christlike manner. What does it mean that meekness is a fruit of the Spirit (refer to Galatians 5:22-23) and how does that impact the way you go about trying to become a meek person?
7. Meekness is the ability to control your anger. The Greek word *praus* (meek) was commonly used for an animal that had been domesticated, or broken, or trained to submit and accept the control of the master. Meekness is when your anger is completely controlled by God. What does it look like when your anger is out of control? What are some possible reasons that God doesn’t want you to react this way?
8. Meekness reacts in a Christlike manner by staying calm and kind in the face of sin. It is not irritable (1 Corinthians 13:5) and is slow to anger (James 1:19-20). R.T. Kendall said it is the ability, for example, to be criticized without getting defensive. Honestly evaluate yourself with the following questions.
 - How do you react when people correct or criticize you?
 - How do you react when people disagree with you, even saying that you are wrong?
 - How do you react when people mock you?
 - How do you react when someone cuts in front of you in line?
9. When is it most difficult to be meek? Explain. What can you do to grow in these situations?

“A meek spirit, like wet tinder, will not easily take fire.”
—Thomas Watson