

Beatitudes

Part 3.

Blessed are The Meek

Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst

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Text: Matt 5:1-12 (ESV)

Matt 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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Meekness

Matt 5:5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

G4239 praus: mild, gentle, humble, lowly, forbearing. G4236 (praotes) & G4240 (prautes) share same root and have similar meaning and usage.

- according to Aristotle, it is the middle standing between two extremes, getting angry without reason, and not getting angry at all. Therefore, praútēs (meekness) is getting angry at the right time, in the right measure, and for the right reason.
- Most of the time, Jesus was gentle, but at the right times, he was harsh (temple clearing)
- Meekness is not weakness; rather power under control.
- Meekness is not asserting one’s own will or agenda, even when they have the power to do so; but rather giving place to God or someone else.
- Yielding one’s will and making it submissive to someone else’s.

Meekness in the OT

Psalms 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

Psalms 25:9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Psa 76:9 When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth.

Psalms 147:6 The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

Psalms 149:4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

Isa 11:4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Zep 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.

Meekness in the NT

James 1:21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.

Meekness manifested in both gentleness and boldness

2 Cor 10:1 I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— 2 I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh.

1 Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Example: Moses

Num 12:1 Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. 2 And they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it.

3 Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

4 And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. 5 And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" 9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

Example: Moses cont.

- Interesting that Moses' meekness quality is stated abruptly in the middle of the narrative. It was obviously an important detail to understanding the story.
- Moses could have put Aaron and Miriam in their place, but he doesn't defend himself.
- He waits for God to speak up and set the order straight.
- That's meekness!

Example: Abram

Abram, his household and Lot (his nephew) journey to the promised land from Egypt. Arriving at the Negeb (south end of Canaan).

Gen 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

2 Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. 3 And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, 4 to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the LORD. 5 And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, 6 so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, 7 and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

8 Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you

Example: Abram cont.

take the right hand, then I will go to the left.” 10 And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. 12 Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.

- Abram had the right to the land; it was promised to him (Gen 12)
- Instead of asserting his power to choose the best fields, he yields that privilege to Lot
- That's power under control. That's meekness!

Example: Jesus

- Jesus perfectly righteous, holy, wise. He was powerful and had all authority (Matt 28:18)
- Yet he was arrested and crucified wrongfully. Why didn't he assert his power over the Jews and Romans?

Matt 26:52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

- Jesus had divine authority and power to stop his arrest...yet he didn't use it.
- That's meekness!

1 Pet 2:21 For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Meekness Summary

- What does Jesus mean in the context of the beatitudes?
 - After realizing our spiritual poverty (vs 3), which leads to mourn over our sin (vs 4), meekness is the next step. It is humbly accepting our lowly position before a Holy God
 - Meekness is to yield our will to God's
 - Meekness means to surrender our carnal agenda/identity and align with God's
 - Meekness does not assert self in pride (recall the pharisee in Luke 18:9-14) , but rather assumes a lowly position in humility (the tax collector)
- If you do not come to God with a broken spirit, mourning over your sin and with humility, you can not be saved. (James 4:6 God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble)
- Meekness commanded (Zeph 2:3)
- Required to receive God's word (James 1:21)
- Required for witnessing to others (1 Pet 3:15)
- Inward meekness precious in the sight of God (1 Pet 3:4)

Inherit the Earth (Land)?

Jesus is quoting from Psalm 37, the meekness primer

1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

2 For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

9 For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.

11 But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.

22 for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.

29 The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.

34 Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.

Inherit the Earth (Land)?

- The OT view mostly likely included dwelling in the land of Canaan, fulfilling the promise given to Abraham and his descendants in Gen 12, Gen 18. This still has not been completely fulfilled.
- Almost 1000 references to Jerusalem or Zion. Refers to both the ancient city and a future city. The inheritance of Abraham incrementally fulfilled and a shadow of the new heaven and earth.

Acts 3:25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." (Gal 3:29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.)

Isa 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. (see also Isa 66:22)

2 Pet 3:13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...

Conclusion: "Inherit the earth" refers to receiving the new earth in the kingdom of God. Fulfilling Abraham's covenant (and probably Adam's dominion mandate).

Matt 5:1-12

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Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst

6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- Hunger G3983 peinao: to be hungry, famished, starved

Matt 4:2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

- Thirst G1372 dipsao: to be dry or thirsty
- We have never experienced a famine. We don't know what it is like to go without food or water for days or weeks. Hunger in America is missing a meal. That's not the hunger Jesus is talking about.
- Jesus refers to strongest physical impulses to describe the spiritual cravings of those in the kingdom.
- Just as physical life depends on food and water, spiritual life depends on righteousness.
- Both are present participle active verbs, indicating continuous action.
 - Continually hungering and thirsty for God's righteousness (but are we satisfied?)
 - Similar (sort of) to being satisfied with food/drink, but then desire more; increasing spiritual appetite.

Empty Pleasures

- Hunger and thirst is to desire that which we know we need but do not possess.
- All people thirst for happiness and hunger for fulfillment, but most seek it in the wrong places and things.
 - Food, travel, entertainment, addictions, work
 - Possessions, spouse, children, or pets

Isa 55:1 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David...6 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

- We often waste resources trying to find fulfillment and happiness (but God offers all the fulfillment and happiness we could want just by following him!)
- God’s message never changed. Seek the LORD! (vs. 6)

Example: Moses

- Moses saw God in the burning bush (Ex 3)
- Moses saw God work through the 10 plagues and parting of Red Sea (Ex 7-12)
- Moses saw God lead them through the desert by a fire and cloud pillar (Ex 13)
- Moses on the mountain as God wrote on tablets of stone (Ex 31)
- Ex 33:18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory."
 - Hadn't Moses seen enough of God's glory? No, he only hungered for more!

Example: David

- Anointed by Samuel, the most unlikely pick of Jesse's sons (1 Sam 16)
- Strengthen by God to defeat the lion and bear (1 Sam 17)
- Strengthen by God to defeat Goliath (1 Sam 17)
- Exalted to be king, but not of his own doing (1 Sam 16:1)
- Called a man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:14)

Psalm 63:1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

- Hadn't David walked close enough with God? No, he only hungered for more!

Example: Paul

- Paul had 3 personal visions/encounters with Jesus
 - Road to Damascus (Acts 9:3-9)
 - At Corinth (Acts 18:9-10)
 - Caught up in the 3rd heaven to see things too wonderful to behold (2 Cor 12 :1-4)
- Paul wrote half of the NT (13-14 books) by divine revelation.
- What more could he want? Wasn't that enough for Paul? No, he longed to know Christ more!

Phil 3:7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Battle of the Diets



Ingredients:

Doughnut (Enriched Wheat Flour (Wheat Flour, Niacin, Reduced Iron, Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid), Water, Palm Oil, Soybean Oil, Sugar. Contains 2% or Less of Each of the Following: Yeast, Soy Lecithin, Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Mono- and Diglycerides, Salt, Wheat Gluten, Monocalcium Phosphate, Dried Milk Powder, Cellulose Gum, Lecithin, Maltodextrin, Ascorbic Acid, Calcium Propionate (To Maintain Freshness), Sorbitan Monostearate, Tocopherols, Enzymes, Oat Fiber, Dried Egg Yolks), Icing (Sugar, Water, Corn Syrup, Palm Oil, Soybean Oil, Salt, Potassium Sorbate (To Maintain Freshness), Artificial Color, Soy Lecithin, Agar, Natural And Artificial Flavor, Citric Acid, Red 40, Mono And Diglycerides, Locust Bean Gum), Glaze (Sugar, Water, Corn Starch, Palm Oil, Calcium Sulfate, Agar, Dextrose, Natural and Artificial Flavors, Salt, Disodium Phosphate, Locust Bean Gum), Sprinkles (Sugar, Fractionated Palm Kernel Oil, Corn Starch, Glucose Syrup, Soy Lecithin, Red 40, Red 3, Yellow 6, Yellow 5, Blue 1, Gum Arabic, Carnauba Wax).

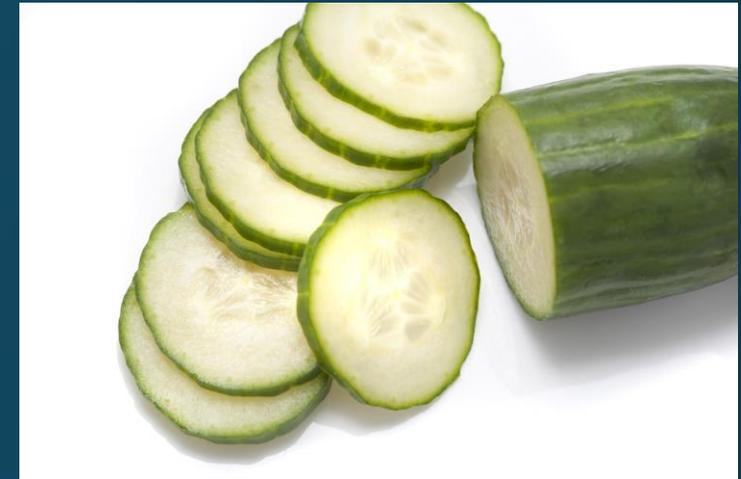
Health benefits:

Sugar rush
0 trans fats!

May contribute to:

Sluggishness
Obesity
Diabetes
Hypertension
Depression
Cancer

Which one do you
want to eat?



Ingredients:

Cucumber

Good source of:

Vitamin B's
Vitamin C
Vitamin K
Magnesium
Potassium
Manganese
Electrolytes

Health benefits:

Aid detoxification
Aid in weight loss
Antioxidants help prevent cancer
Reduce Cardiovascular Disease
Help reduce blood sugar
Help reduce blood pressure
Help reduce bad breath
Promotes hydration (96% water)
Polish shoes, stop squeaky hinges,
etc!

Now which one do
you want to eat?

Wisdom, understanding &
knowledge can change your appetite

Righteousness

- What is your spiritual appetite like?
- Do you hunger and thirst for Christ's righteousness? Or for the enticements of the world?
- Two types of righteousness:
 - Imputed righteousness (justification). Given the righteous standing as if we had lived like Jesus
 - Imparted righteousness (sanctification). Progressively growing to live more like Jesus.
- We hunger and thirst for God at salvation. But our appetite for God only increases the more like him we become. Once you get a taste of God's goodness, you'll want more!

1 Pet 2:2 Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

- When I compare my life the Jesus', I know I need more of him. So I pursue him.

1 Tim 6:11 But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

The Result? True Fulfillment

Psalm 107:9 For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

Psalm 34:9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! **10** The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. **2** He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **3** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Jer 31:14 I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD.”

The Result? True Fulfillment

Matt 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Rev 21:6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

Prodigal Son

- Luke 15:11-32 Parable of a son demanding his inheritance, left home to live the “good” life

Luke 15:14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. 17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’ 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”

- He sought satisfaction from lavish living; but when the money ran out, good life → bad life
- Vs. 14 He “began to be in need”, so attempts to fill the need himself. Get a job, work hard.
- Jesus depicts the son as being hungry enough to eat pig slop (carob pods), but not hungry enough to return (repent) to his father.
- Vs. 17 Finally, his desperation led him back to his father, but this time as a servant.
- He demonstrates vs 17 cut to the heart, vs 17 desperate need, vs 18 poverty, vs 19 humility

Closing

- Blessed are we when we recognize our sinfulness and spiritual bankruptcy.
- Blessed are we when we grieve and confess our sin. God comforts with forgiveness.
- Blessed are we when we see our lowly and humble place before God.
- Blessed are we when we hunger and thirst for God's righteousness. He fills us with good things.
- We never out-grow any of the beatitudes.
- If anything, they should become more intense. Desire for Jesus should grow.

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