

Consider the Alternative

Big Idea: Our dog-eat-dog world calls for self-confidence and self-promotion. Jesus calls us to trust in Him and to humble ourselves before others. Matthew 5:5 *“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”*

Context: Like the Twelve Tribes of Israel were promised the Land in the Old Testament, the twelve disciples are shown the way to inherit the land – through meekness.

1. The definition of meekness.

πραῦς – mild, soft, gentle

While considering the fact that Jesus would have spoken in Aramaic, the Greek translation is trustworthy in its meaning. Ultimately, the audience is called to be mild, soft and gentle - even humble.

What we can infer from this statement is that meekness may have not been a natural quality of the collected disciples.

2. The alternative to meekness.

“People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive...” (II Timothy 3:2)

The context of this statement is that this is what we can expect in the last days. This “list” (and the list that follows in II Timothy 3) is not an attractive list, but we find it is being “celebrated” more and more amongst public figures today.

Further to this, the pride (which is the antithesis of meekness) of humanity is often a stumbling block to the work of God.

3. The fruit of meekness.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5)

There is an immediate benefit for the meek. They **are** happy (blessed). Furthermore, there is as promise of things to come – *“they will inherit the earth.”*

Beyond this, sincere meekness is an attractive quality. While it goes against our selfish inclinations for self-promotion, gentleness and humility are generally well-received.

Finally, when we humble ourselves before God – acknowledging that He is our strength and our source of power – we open the door to allow Him to do His work.

So what? In what ways are you listening to the world instead of this Beatitude? In your relationships, are you looking to assume a position of power? In your workplace, are you looking to get the respect you’re due? In your ministry, are you waiting to be acknowledged and appreciated?

Humble yourself today and watch God work through your meekness.