



## Sonfollower In-depth Studies

THE BEATITUDES SERIES - LESSON 5

Matthew 5. 5

*divine meekness*

*Journal - to begin, let's spend some time journaling what we have learned to be so important about our second beatitude. Maybe jot down some of the most beautiful characteristics of one who is truly in godly mourning over sin. This is just simple review before moving into our next beatitude.*

our second step...

This we have learned to be our second step with Jesus Christ as His genuine follower...our becoming mournful as only Jesus defines mournful. Our existing in such divine penitence over the depth of the sin revealed within us in our first beatitude, truly evidences our being rooted deep in the reality of our own most desperate need to remain on our knees before God as a way of life. One in genuine penitence truly understands that only in our continually denying self and our taking up Jesus' ways, truths, and life are we set free from our sin and remain set free from sin. Only one existing in a genuine penitence over that which is God's view of their corruption is welcomed into His presence truly being forgiven and graciously given a place of comfort before Him. As we look at the great prophet Isaiah once again in Isaiah 6, we see this place of comfort one exists in when truly drawn near to God...it is a place on our knees before God and beside others as we live freely saturated in His grace. It is such a beautiful picture of one who is truly existing before God knowing exactly who they are as they faithfully remain on their knees before God and beside others as a way of life. One being truly poor in spirit and in such godly mourning over the depth of their sin, are both essential ingredients in one ever faithfully existing and remaining in this rare but so beautiful place of meekness as only Jesus' own life defines meekness. We might say...meekness is truly only found within the one who is existing in God's light, face to face, with their own corruption knowing ...only in grace do I powerfully live, thus only with grace will I powerfully act.

*Journal - in reading Matthew 5. 5 and Matthew 11. 25-30, jot down some first thoughts concerning what it might mean to you to live saturated in meekness.*

the word meek...

Meekness, in many realms of teaching, has been taught out of its sphere of truth. Meekness isn't one being a doormat, weak, cowardice, or timid. It is rather one living in powerful humility just as Jesus lived. When we remember that Jesus Christ is our only way, truth, and life...we might more faithfully turn our eyes towards only Him for our hope in ever truly understanding this divine meekness of which Jesus truly desires we take up as our own. In other words, we are not going to just look at this word *meekness* today...we are going to look into the very ways, truths, and life of Jesus Christ, Himself, who was our perfect and only righteous example of meekness. The Greek word translated *meek* here in Matthew 5. 5 is *praus* meaning...a gentle power. When we go deeper into the roots of this word, we actually see this divine power as being so very humble and grace-saturated. When we look into the life of Jesus Christ, we see the very living reality of this meekness at work among us. Even towards those who sought only to hate Him, injure Him, reject Him...in such a gentle, grace-saturated power, Jesus sought only to serve them, save them, and



walk beside them. Regardless of how Jesus was being treated...Jesus never acted powerfully without grace. He quietly submitted to His Father's will at all cost...to live and die for the sake of God's kingdom becoming and remaining one. Jesus never stepped out of God's boundary for His life no matter who came up against Him. He quietly in such grace bore much insult. He remained silent when being accused only returning a gentle, soft answer when needed. When nailed to the cross in Luke 23. 34, Jesus in such powerful grace cried out, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Though Jesus clearly walked this earth never denying who He was or His sole purpose...He beautifully lived willing to be treated as a nobody in every area of His life from birth to death, and...Jesus being our sole spiritual help and only righteous way, truth, and life...we should seek diligently only His meekness as being our own. Being Easter season...we can so beautifully look to the cross and easily see the grace-saturated power and effectiveness of genuine meekness among us. Because a Sonfollower truly knows who they are in our walking with Jesus Christ through our first two beatitudes, it will be our genuine meekness at this point, which truly keeps us powerfully in our place on our knees before God and beside other's as we live solely for the sake of God's will for His kingdom...to grow in oneness.

*Journal - Being Easter season, let's spend some time journaling what the cross truly means to us personally. Maybe jot down some thoughts concerning how it is our first three beatitudes have truly given us a clearer view of the message of the Cross.*

meekness and the cross...

This is always such a blessed time of year for true followers of Jesus Christ...our remembering what Jesus so graciously did for us in taking our sin upon Himself; Him dying on the cross a shameful, torturous, rejective death which truly should have been our own. But...this is not the end of the Easter story. If we are truly poor in spirit understanding just how corrupt and of unclean lips we truly are...the One who died on that cross for our sin is now our every way, truth, and life. Our Redeemer lives and has conquered sin and the grave! He rose up victoriously from death into life making sure that sin and its every tragic effect be completely dissipated and left powerless to cause any destruction or division among the family of God ever again. In other words...Jesus paid the full price for sin. Jesus in such meekness, laid down His life for the sake of God's kingdom remaining one, at peace, reconciled. In John 15. 13 we are actually taught that there is no greater love than this...our laying down our life for a friend just as Jesus laid down His life for us...for the sake of God's kingdom remaining one, at peace, reconciled. Sadly...if we ever lay down our life at the expense of God's kingdom remaining one, in other words...our laying down our life for a friend rather causes division and unreconciliation to occur in the family of God, we have gravely missed the whole message of the cross and have deceptively fallen into behavior which rejects the Cross and the very ways, truths, and life of Jesus Christ. We must never forget...the cross beautifully and so powerfully wreaks of grace. Our living powerfully the message of the cross can never be lived rightly without a saturation of grace in our every move, and...genuine grace knows no way to depart from God's desire for His kingdom but rather lives solely, at all cost, for the sake of God's kingdom remaining one, at peace, and reconciled.

*journal - in taking some time to read Ephesians 4, jot down some thoughts concerning what acting powerfully without grace might look like today within the church.*

A question received...if sin has been left powerless by the cross to ever separate us from God and from each other, then why do some among the church actually think it right to choose to not reconcile, choose to sever a relationship, choose to actually put to death a friendship within the body of Christ in their thinking another to be that wrong? What a bold question for a young Sonfollower to ask when truly hearing the message of the cross, yet...their truly seeing so many of us rejecting the message of the cross in our actual choices. There is such a powerful truth which needs to be spoken here, yet...might it truly be spoken so gently in such grace. First of all...there is



no doubt that sin is very dangerous and so very real within another, yet...genuine meekness within one will always remain in its place before God and beside another knowing this sin to be just as dangerous and real within our self. It's one thing to be walked away from by one when we have so faithfully remained on our knees by their side loving and covering them through whatever the circumstance, but...it is quite another to be the one who has actually chosen to stand up and walk away from another thinking this one to be too wrong to walk with. The revealing question is...are we the one who has so faithfully remained on our knees beside another whatever the wrong, or...are we the one who has stood up and walked away? When we look closely at the life of Jesus Christ, we clearly see in Jesus' living example of meekness...He never chose, even in His perfect righteousness, to separate Himself from even the worst of sinners, though...many in their self-righteousness chose to separate them self from Him thinking Him to be so wrong to kneel beside, spend time with, and defend the one whom they thought to be too dirty to walk with. In other words...Jesus never walked away from sinners, though...many sinfully walked away from Him.

There is no doubt that the cross is so powerfully real among us today, but sadly...so is the reality of self-righteousness just as it was when Jesus walked this earth. In the church today, actual self-righteousness can be so deceiving as it can seem so meek in one's beautiful word's and emotions, yet...it's presence cannot be hidden in one's choice to reject the message of the cross by acting powerfully toward another without grace; their acting powerfully without the very grace they live and breathe in as a way of life in their own worst of sin. When meekness is truly not present within one, the only alternative is a self-righteous reaction. Some among us will walk away from a friend thinking them to be that wrong, and...some among us will be walked away from by a friend in their thinking us to be that wrong. Which one are we? All throughout the Gospels, Jesus so strongly rebuked the first as He so faithfully walked beside and defended the second. It is an ever occurring theme in His ministry to defend the one whom is being accused and walked away from. We might ask ourselves...who am I supporting and defending today? What a rare choice among us to defend the one Jesus defends...the one who has been deemed too wrong to walk with. It is a way, truth, and life which makes no sense to the one who is sadly blinded by how right they think to be, but...it makes beautiful sense to those of us who are genuine Sonfollowers knowing exactly who we are, just as corrupt and of unclean lips. A Sonfollower can't help but live the message of the cross toward others knowing...the message of the cross is our very lifeline in every breath we take. We thrive on the message of the cross and its true revealing of what genuine meekness among us is...our acting powerfully **with grace** toward one another for the sake of God's will for His kingdom...being one, at peace, and reconciled.

*Thought from A.W. Tozer - The meek man is not a human mouse afflicted with a sense of his own inferiority. Rather he may be in his moral life as bold as a lion and as strong as Samson; but he has stopped being fooled about himself. He has accepted God's estimate of his own life. He knows he is as weak and helpless as God declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is in the sight of God of more importance than angels. In himself, nothing; in God, everything. That is his motto.*

The blessedness of living divinely meek...

What is this blessedness so graciously lavished upon those who are truly existing in such genuine meekness? How might this blessedness, just like all the others thus far, turn upside down what this world thinks to be normal and right? Let's take a look...The Greek word translated *shall inherit* here in Matthew 5: 5 is *kleronomeo*, meaning...to be an heir of. In this phrase we see a future tense blessing implied. The Greek word translated *earth* here in Matthew 5: 5 is simply *ge*, meaning...the land. When we look into the depths of every angle of this blessedness of one inheriting the land, it is a blessedness, though very much promised today to the meek, will not be fully received until the future. We might think back to the Old Testament inheritance of the land of Canaan which was promised to the Jews long before they actually took possession of it. Though we see their inheritance first mentioned in Genesis under the leadership of Moses, it was not fully



received till years and years later under the leadership of Joshua, yet...they regarded it such a great blessing long before possessing being that they lived hopeful and in such joy for that day when they would cross over the Jordan taking possession of it. This inheritance we see here in Matthew 5. 5 is truly no different in many ways. Though the kingdom of heaven is here and now within the hearts of those who are truly poor in spirit...when Jesus comes again, His reign will be on this very earth as His throne will come out of Jerusalem, and...are we not looking forward to that day when we cross over into our Canaan, heaven...which is simply this very earth in the future being given an extreme, heavenly makeover which only those who are meek will reap the blessings of. As we look at Matthew 5. 12, though this truly be a blessing fully received in the future...it is a blessing today which truly gives us hope and even strength to endure in such divine meekness though everything of this earth as it screams...defend yourself, retaliate, walk away from that friend, or give way to offensiveness or self-righteousness, etc. This is exactly why this blessedness truly flops what is normality in this world right upside down on its head. Meekness is rare among us today and most certainly doesn't rule this earth in its present form. The self-righteous, the quarrelsome, the avidly harsh and aggressive rule this earth today. Though the meek truly do prosper so powerfully in our being contented and so at peace in our rightful place before God and beside others in whatever our circumstances, it is the self-righteous...it is those who act powerfully without grace who rule this world today in such restlessness and discontent which aches to their very bone. How odd that in the future, when Jesus comes again and takes His reign...gentle grace-saturated power will rule what power without grace rules today.

*Journal - in Reading Psalm 37, Take as much time as you need writing down every attribute you can find on meekness within this passage. This is simply about our gleaning out of Scripture as much as we can on genuine meekness which truly can never be taught in one short study as this.*

review and application...

Sadly, meekness is so rare among us today that even within the church, the meek are seen as an oddity and can be quite an uncomfortable presence in some cases, or...even an offensive presence to those among us who have acted powerfully without grace thinking to be right. Concerning meekness among us...it's not normal in the church today for one to go, love, and cover the very one who has found fault in them and has acted powerfully toward them without grace. It's not normal in the church today for one to lay down their rightness, lay down their pride, lay down their very life for only the same reason Jesus did...for the sake of God's kingdom remaining one, at peace, and reconciled. It's not normal in the church today for one to defend who Jesus defends...the one accused and walked away from by what can only be self-righteousness. Thus, might this be our lifetime application ...to never be normal! Might we remain in our rightful place before God and beside others never thinking for even one second that there is anything about us so right to stand up and walk away from another in their worst of sin. Let's be one of the rare ones in living the true message of the cross...rather than our allowing the sin we think to see to dictate our next move toward another...might we rather choose to allow the cross that we clearly see to dictate our next move toward another...a life of going, loving, and covering another regardless of how they might be treating us In other words...might we be one more of meekness among us whom makes self-righteousness one less. Genuine meekness may be rare, but...its power among us is simply explosive as meekness always gives righteousness a place to bloom, and...how truly beautiful is a garden so full of blooming Sonfollowers saturated in meekness...to God be the glory.

Until our next study simply entitled...Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, I pray that we will know our worth in Christ in pouring out and into others what this time in God's Word has poured out and into us. Share with another Jesus' offering of such a divine blessedness as this for their own life. In Jesus' name...