

The Beatitudes
(Lesson 7)

Introduction:

1. We are presently studying "the Beatitudes" that Jesus presented at the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12).
2. In the Beatitudes,:
 - a. Jesus revealed some special blessings that are available to His followers
 - b. Jesus gave His requirements for receiving these blessings.
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on the 3rd Beatitude -- "*Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth*" (Matthew 5:5).

Discussion:

- I. LET US FIRST IDENTIFY "THE MEEK"
 - A. "The meek" are those who possess a mild and gentle spirit.
 1. A meek person is gentle, humble, considerate, and courteous.
 2. Opposite characteristics include arrogance, pride, and haughtiness.
 - a. The arrogant and the proud struggle to get things by their own strength.
 - b. The meek trust in God to provide their needs.
 3. A meek person does not assert himself or insist on having his own way.
 - B. Meekness:
 1. is not "weakness"
 2. may be described as "strength under control."
 - C. Strong leaders of God's people known for their meekness include:
 1. Moses (Numbers 12:1-3)
 2. Jesus (Matthew 11:28-30; 21:1-5).
- II. MEEKNESS IS A REQUIREMENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE
 - A. We must develop meekness (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:1-3; Colossians 3:12-13).
 - B. Meekness must be shown:
 1. toward God (1 Peter 5:5b-6)
 - a. God will teach the meek (Psalm 25:9).
 - b. God will lift up the meek (Psalm 147:6).
 - c. God will save the meek (Psalm 149:4).
 2. toward God's word (James 1:21)
 3. toward men (Titus 3:1-2)
 4. when answering questions (1 Peter 3:15)
 5. toward those overtaken in a fault (Galatians 6:1).
- III. THE MEEK WILL *INHERIT* GREAT BLESSINGS
 - A. To properly understand what is involved in "inheriting the earth," we must realize that there are basically two ways of receiving blessings:
 1. taking them by force [as evil people do]
 2. trusting God to provide them [as meek followers of the Lord do].
 - B. The earth that so many evil people take by force will eventually be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10).
 - C. The meek look forward to dwelling in a better place forever (2 Peter 3:13).