

Meek

“Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth”

Matthew 5:5

Meek—The Greek word is *praeis*. In this Beatitude, Jesus quotes **Psalm 37:11**. This ties *praeis* to the Hebrew word *anaw*. This link changes everything. *Anaw* is not a word about gentle and mild behavior. It is a word that describes being afflicted and suffering. It is about people who are forcibly oppressed. Suddenly this statement seems all wrong. How can people who are being oppressed be blessed?

This Beatitude is about a change in perspective when life forces affliction upon us. We do not have the choice of avoiding something forced on us, whether it seems to come by accident or not. How we respond to this forced submission is our only choice and our true responsibility. The Old Testament context of this word means that we will see life very differently than stoic resignation to abuse. We will see that the world is God's. We will see that He is sovereign. We will see that His will prevails. We will see that affliction, suffering and pain pass through His grace before they touch our breath. We will see that submission is the hallmark of victory because it places our will in His. Finally, we will see that our response to trials and tribulations must come from His direction, not ours.

Judgment, sovereignty, purpose, power and hope are all implied in the context of “meek.” These are not the people who lay down without a fight. These are not spiritual wimps. These are men and women who acknowledge the Lord God Almighty as their protector, who submit to His will for their lives while battles rage in heavenly places. They are the true soldiers of the Kingdom, willing to give up their lives for their King. God allows affliction to prepare the stage for His victory.

Do you see the amazing announcement here? Jesus tells the ones who are feeling God's hand of oppression that they are very special. They have been granted the divine privilege of suffering. Suffering is one of God's ways of shaping us into His image. It is a mark of God's love. These people are earning the merit badge of affliction under God's special grace the grace of fellowship in trials. There is a reward coming.

Do we really live with the attitude that affliction is God's grace in our lives or do we complain to God about how “unfair” life has become? Do we see our trials as God's hand shaping us into men and women who reflect His image or are we kicking and screaming our way into His presence? Praise is not about mild and timid responses to life. It is about heroic deliberate transformation taking what life throws at us and turning it into a celebration of praise for God's craftsmanship.

How is your attitude today?