TITLE: blessings for the Meek

TEXT; Mt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-5; Mt. 6:9; Gal. 5:22-23; Mt. 11:29;Heb 12:1-3; Jn. 1:1-3, 14; Is. 53:1-9; Mk. 14:60-61; Phil. 3: 5-15

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to continue in the beatitudes of Christ found in Matthew Chapter 5.

 All of us as Christians want to live lives of blessing in the Lord. We have defined the word blessing as Jesus uses it here in the Sermon on the Mount as joyful as in being “content” or “fully satisfied”.

 Blessed, content, fully satisfied are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

 Blessed, content, fully satisfied are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

 The beatitude that I want to talk about this mourning is the next one found in Mt. 5:5..

**Matt 5:5 (NIV) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth!

 Before we talk about whom the meek are that Jesus is giving this promise to let’s look at the promise….

**Matt 5:5 (NIV) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

The promise for the meek is that they will inherit the earth.

 Now you may be thinking, well the first beatitude that we talked about two weeks ago told us that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the poor in spirit and here it says that the meek just get to inherit the earth.

 Actually, the two promises are interlocked…

Reve 21:1 (NIV) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

**3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**

**4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."**

**5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."**

What we see here is a uniting, a union of heaven and earth.

I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

 The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the City of God’s people comes down out of heaven as a bride that is beautifully dressed for her husband.

 Where is it that the holy city, the New Jerusalem is coming down out of heaven to?

A restored earth.

 An Earth restored to the glory and splendor of its original state before man corrupted it with sin. A restored earth where Scripture says…

**"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**

**4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."**

This is the inheritance for the Child of God. A restored heaven and Earth!

 Actually, one day the two will become as one. Or the earth will be restored and will be able to receive the full glory of heaven.

 Folks, this is what we pray for. How is it that Jesus told us to pray?

 **Matt 6:9 (NIV) "This, then, is how you should pray:**

**"`Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**10 your kingdom come, your will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

 Whenever we pray this prayer we are praying for the culmination of Heaven and Earth.

**God, your will be done on earth just as it is in heaven.**

One day this will actually happen. Gods will, will be done on earth just as it is in heaven!

 On that day that John foresaw…the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

This is the promise that Jesus is giving here to the meek.

**Matt 5:5 (NIV) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

 The Earth that the meek will inherit will be a restored earth..

 The earth that the holy city, the New Jerusalem will be sent down out of heaven to as a bride that is beautifully dressed for her husband…

 So, if this is the promise to the meek, the promise of one-day inheriting a restored earth, an earth that now is in the hands of Satan and the wicked of this world…. Who are the meek that Jesus is referring to here? Just what does it mean for us to be meek?

 The Greek word for meek that Jesus used here is:

**4239 praus {prah-ooce'}**

**1) mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness**

It speaks of a meekness towards God!

Meekness toward God is that disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting.

 In the OT, the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend them against injustice. Thus, meekness toward evil people means knowing God is permitting the injuries they inflict, that He is using them to purify His elect, and that He will deliver His elect in His time.

Gentleness or meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over the situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all.

This meekness that Jesus speaks of is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of our human will. Meekness is listed among the fruits of the Spirit in Gal. chapter 5…

**Gala 5:22 22But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

**23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**

-- A Harper pole once found:

 *Percentage of Americans earning less than $30,000 per year whom believes that "the meek shall inherit the earth": 61*

 *Percentage of Americans earning more than $60,000 who believe this: 36*

Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest.

-- A. W. Tozer I believe says it best…

*“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 has declared him to be, but paradoxically, he knows at the same time that he is, in the sight of God, more important than angels. ...*

 *He knows well that the world will never see him as God sees him and he has stopped caring.”*

The English word "meek" has largely lost the fine

blend of spiritual poise and strength meant by Jesus.

 Listen to how Jesus describes Himself in:

Matt 11:29 (KJS) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

 What is it that Jesus says that we are to learn from Him so that we will find rest for our souls?

 That He is meek and lowly in heart.

 If we want an example of what it means to be meek then we need to look no further then Jesus..

 Jesus is the ultimate, the supreme example of meekness.

**Hebr 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

 Well let us consider Him for a moment this morning.

 Who was Jesus? He was the incarnate God of Creation!

**John 1:1 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**2 He was with God in the beginning.**

**3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

**14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

 Jesus is identified here are the Word, the Logos of God, the God of creation!

 Scripture tells us that we are to **Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.**

We see the meekness of Christ displayed in that he endured opposition from sinful men when he didn’t have to do so.

Scripture says that Jesus, **who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame.**

 Jesus didn’t have to do what he did. As the incarnate God of creation, the one who created everything that has ever been created; He could have called down ten thousand legions of His angels to deliver Him any time that He chose.

 Yet for the joy set before Him He endured the cross!

 What was the joy that was set before Him?

 What possible joy could there be in the cross? In being crucified?

 Your and my salvation! Paying the price for your and my sin so that we wouldn’t have to pay that price!

 Picture Jesus being spit upon, beaten beyond recognition, whipped until he had no flesh left on his back, placed on a rough wooded timber, had nails driven through his hands and feet and hung out to die a slow and agonizing death in the hot sun!

 And then realize that he endured it for you and I! He not only endured it but he considered it pure joy to do so!

 Isaiah foretells and speaks of the meekness of Christ in:

 **Isai 53:1 (NIV) Who has believed our message**

**and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

**2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot,**

**and like a root out of dry ground.**

**He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,**

**nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**

**3 He was despised and rejected by men,**

**a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.**

**Like one from whom men hide their faces**

**he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

**4 Surely he took up our infirmities**

**and carried our sorrows,**

**yet we considered him stricken by God,**

**smitten by him, and afflicted.**

**5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,**

**he was crushed for our iniquities;**

**the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

**6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,**

**each of us has turned to his own way;**

**and the LORD has laid on him**

**the iniquity of us all.**

**7 He was oppressed and afflicted,**

**yet he did not open his mouth;**

**he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,**

**and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,**

**so he did not open his mouth.**

**8 By oppression and judgment he was taken**

**away.**

**And who can speak of his descendants?**

**For he was cut off from the land of the living;**

**for the transgression of my people he was stricken.**

**9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,**

**and with the rich in his death,**

**though he had done no violence,**

**nor was any deceit in his mouth.**

 As Jesus stood before His accusers and they were telling one lie after another about Him we see the meekness of Christ displayed in that Scripture says:

**Mark 14:60 (NIV) Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"**

**61 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.**

**7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.**

And as believers we are called to:

**Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that we will not grow weary and lose heart!**

 We are to consider Him, Consider Jesus, think about Jesus and how he responded to the injustices of this life and then be willing to do as Jesus did!

 The meekness of Christ is displayed in that even when he was unfairly and unjustly accused he kept the greater good in mind. He would rather suffer injustice at the hands of wicked men then to hinder the work of God in His life.

 Yet, how often do we hinder the work of God in our life because we don’t allow the meekness of Christ to be manifest in our life?

 We are hurt by others and we want to get even and hurt them back.

 Someone speaks evil against us and we want to speak evil about them.

 Our feelings get hurt and we want to retaliate with the same.

 We may work our tails off for God and no one seems to notice so we take it upon ourselves to make sure that everyone knows how much we do for God….

 Where is the meekness of Christ in this?

 The meekness of Christ will only be displayed within us when we come the realization that the world will never see us as God sees us and we stop caring what the world may think.

 Example: Mother Theresa…candidate for sainthood by the catholic Church—she was feeling tormented and attacked by Satan and had exorcism just before she died---big debate on WHO radio whether a person who had an exorcism should receive sainthood…..Spent her life living and ministering the grace of God among the impoverished of India--- I doubt that she ever gave a thought about one day being nominated as a saint. She is probably turning over in her grave right now with all the hubbub that is going on about her.

 Mother Theresa is most probably one of the meek that will inherit the earth and if she is going to inherit the earth in all of its restored glory and majesty what would she care about a little thing like being exalted by man to sainthood.

 -- "John Calvin Nearing the end of his life, Calvin gave strict instructions that he be buried in a common cemetery with no tombstone. He wished to give no encouragement to those who might make it a Protestant shrine. Today, his gravesite is still unknown.

,

This is an example of the meekness of Christ.

 To not worry about how the world in which we live views us, but are sole concern in life being how does my God view me? And what can I do that will bring glory to His name? What can I do that will lead others to Him?

 The Apostle Paul says this in:

**Phil 3:8 (NIV) What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, 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 is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.**

**12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.**

**13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,**

**14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

**15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.**

This is the meekness of Christ!

**To…consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, 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 is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God**

This morning, are you one of the meek that Jesus promises will one day inherit the earth?

 Have you come to the place of emptying self of self and given all that you have and all that you are to God?

 Is it the #1 desire of your life to….

…..know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

**11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

This is what meekness is all about….dying to self and living for God!

 Jesus said:

**Matt 5:5 (NIV) Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

 Is this a promise that you can claim this morning?