

Radiant Church, October 25, 2015
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SOTM #3 - Matthew 5:5
A Disciple's Heart...Trusts in God

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth*

Jesus places the Beatitudes in the forefront of the Sermon on the Mount for a reason. The Jews had ideas of the kingdom that were materialistic and military. To them the Messiah was one who was going to lead them to victory.

So they were thinking in terms of conquest and fighting in a material sense. Jesus says, "No, no, that is not the way. I am not like that, and my kingdom is not like that." Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.' It is a huge contrast to what the Jews' were thinking.

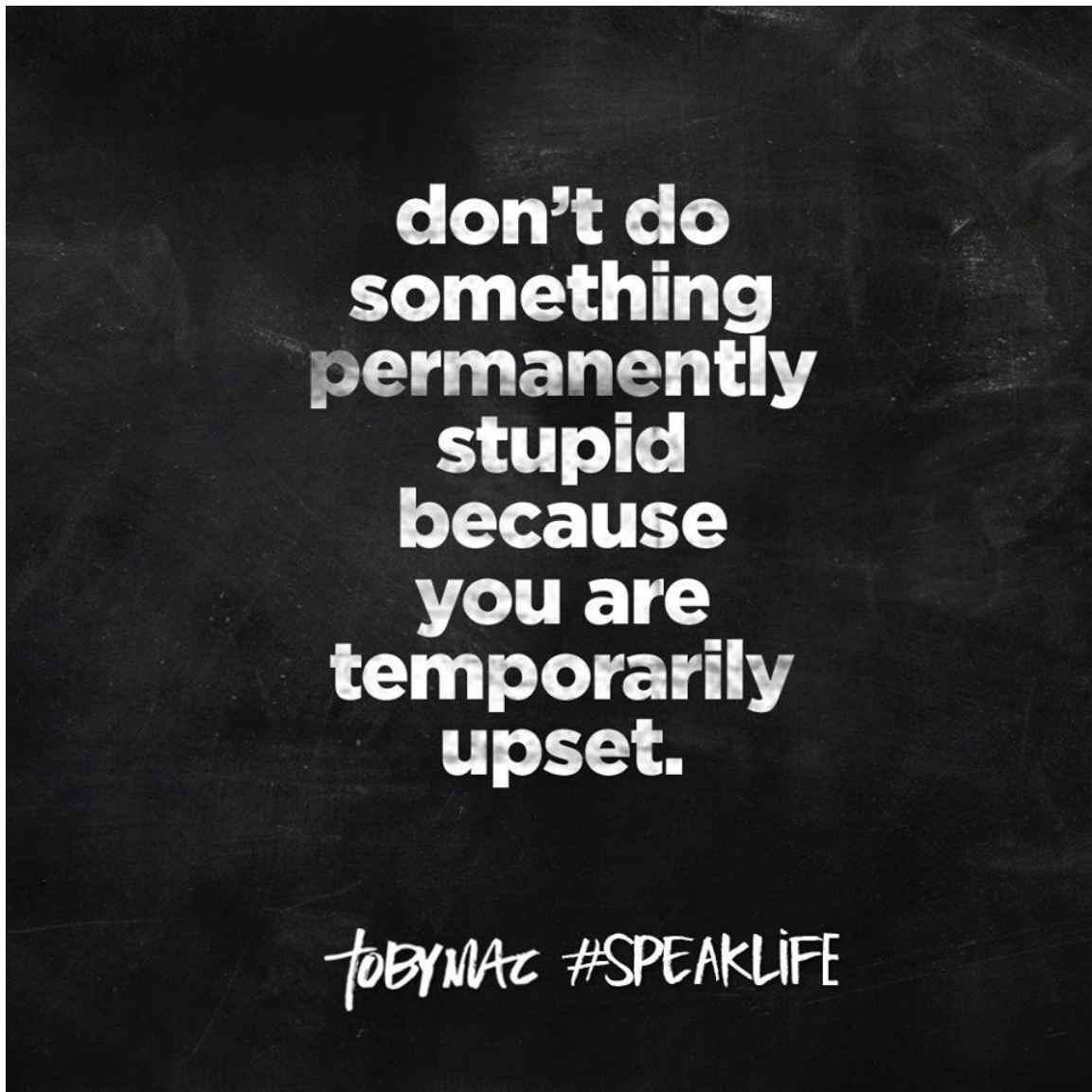
Meekness denotes a humble and gentle attitude to others that is determined by a true estimate of ourselves.

It is relatively easy to be honest with ourselves before God and acknowledge ourselves to be sinners in his sight. But how much more difficult it is to allow other people to say things like that about me! I instinctively resent it. All of us prefer to condemn ourselves than to allow somebody else to condemn us.

- Meekness is essentially a true view of oneself
- It is expressed in attitude and conduct with respect to others
- Meekness rejects any thoughts of retaliation.

- Meekness is not weakness
- It does not denote cowardice or spinelessness or timidity
- It is not the willingness to have peace at any cost
- Meekness does not necessarily avoid disagreement
- Meekness does not suggest indecisiveness, or a lack of confidence
- Meekness does not imply shyness or a withdrawn personality, as contrasted with that of an extrovert
- It is not simply being nice all the time.
- It is not harshness, being mean in your treatment of others, or an absence of gentleness in your treatment of others
- It doesn't mean always get yours first, or caring very little about how your actions affect others
- Meekness is not vengeful, being known as someone never to cross, always getting your "pound of flesh"
- And meekness is not uncontrolled: If anger and rage fills your heart so it's all a series of explosions caused by the "fools" in your life

- A meek follower of Jesus is still willing to stand up fearlessly in defense of others or of the truth as the occasion arises.
- However...



Meekness is not put to the test unless we are around other people.
A hermit or a loner is not necessarily meek.
The only way in which you could prove whether he was meek would be to put him with people who would test his ability to hold his temper.

Meekness is “tender steel,” strength under control

We cannot even begin to be meek without Jesus:
Jesus himself always displayed the dynamic of trust that is part and parcel of meekness.

1 Peter 2:23 *when he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly*

The key to meekness is a deep trust in the sovereign power of God.

A Disciples's Heart trusts God!

And we'll all admit - it's really hard to trust Jesus when we're being cheated or abused or sinned against or neglected or rejected

A meek person is willing to trust God, to take Him at His word for the future, even when the present seems to contradict everything God has said.

A meek person is strong; strong enough to be meek.

The reward for meekness is truly amazing: "They will inherit the earth."

The inspiration for this is **Psalm 37:11** *but the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace*

In the New Testament, God's people are not a physical nation — they are gathered from all nations and tongues. And the land/earth they inherit is not a physical plot of ground — it is heaven itself.

Revelation 21:1-3 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

There are three concurrent paths to Christ-like meekness.

First, we must realize that a gentle, meek spirit is a gift of the Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:23** - Fruit of the Spirit...gentleness...). Therefore, it comes only through grace. The Holy Spirit is God's grace of His own presence and power in us.

We have to ask in humble prayer that he give us life, make us his children, and instill in us a spirit of meekness.

Such asking ought to be continual because we all need to grow in grace regardless of one's level of spiritual maturity.

Second, we must get close to Jesus, for he was the perfect incarnation of meekness.

In the old days, a farmer would yoke up a young ox with a more experienced ox, so the young one could learn how to plow from the older ox - the younger one had to learn how to walk in step with the more experienced ox.

Matthew 11:29-30 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

The burden Jesus talks about here is the burden of trying to be religious, where people would try to not be poor in spirit. Jesus says here that his “burden” is light...just trust Him, imitate Him.

Third, we must give close attention to the progression of thought in the Beatitudes, for it makes more sense of what meekness is.

The initial step begins in the first Beatitude (**Matthew 5:3**) Poor in spirit - seeing ourselves for who we are

In the next Beatitude (**Matthew 5:4**) we progress to mourning or grieving our sin. Mourning (over our sin) - seeing our relationship with God

And then being Meek - seeing a new way to act, interact and react to other people

Not only is there logical connection between these Beatitudes, they also become increasingly difficult.

Poverty of spirit and mourning our sin are negative. However, when true poverty of spirit and spiritual mourning are present, they make way for the more positive virtue of meekness.

How the Meek inherit the earth:

1. The meek man who inherits the earth is the earth's conqueror. He is the Ultimate winner in the world wherever he goes.
2. The meek man or woman enjoys what they have; they thoroughly enjoy life. The meek person is thankful, happy, and contented, and it is contentment that makes life enjoyable. Can you imagine the sense of complete freedom each of us would have if we were just content?

3. He also inherits it in another sense - whatever other people have, he is glad they have it. That is the real indicator of contentment in our own circumstances.
4. "They shall inherit the earth," may be read, "they shall inherit the land," the promised land, the "New Jerusalem." These are the ones who will inherit heaven, for up there they are all meek-spirited.

But this must be the work of grace. We must be born again. It's out of our new life in Christ, as trophies of His grace that we can represent Him in our meekness.

And if we have been born again, let it be our joy, as long as we live, to show that we are the followers of the meek and lowly Jesus

So may it be, for Christ's sake!