

Providence Reformed Baptist Church - Sunday, December 13, 2020

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 19. The Meek – Matthew 5:5

Pastor Phillip M Way

- I. Defining Terms – Matthew 5:5
 - A. Blessed - a privileged recipient of Divine favor, grace
 - B. Meek – gentleness of spirit
 1. “Gentleness of love, good manners, self-discipline, and above all, quietly trusting and submitting oneself to God.” – James Boice
 2. “Lowly-minded, ready to give up their portion of the earth, therefore it shall come back to them.” – CH Spurgeon
 3. Meekness is entirely opposite of everything the natural man thinks
 - a. The world thinks in terms of strength, power, ability, aggressiveness, self-assurance – to conquer and possess
 - b. A meek person cares nothing about what the world or others think of him, only what God knows about him!
 4. “Every Christian, whatever his natural temperament or psychology may be, is meant to be like this.” – Martyn Lloyd-Jones
 - C. Inherit the Earth
 1. To come into possession of that which belongs to the Messiah and His kingdom
 2. “He has the best of this world for those who think the least of it and of himself.” – CHS
 3. “They possess the earth because they take what God spreads before them and enjoy it, while others fight for more and fail to enjoy even what they have.” – Boice
 - D. Definition:
 1. To be poor in spirit is to recognize our hopelessness and helplessness before God apart from His grace
 2. To mourn for sin leads us in repentance to the comfort promised in the gospel, our only lasting and true hope
 3. We move from mourning over sin (looking at self) to a position to see how others look at us – what is the outward fruit of our regeneration? It must be a meek and gentle spirit, to live a quiet and peaceable life trusting and submitted to God
- II. What Meekness is Not
 - A. Cowardice – avoiding conflict or disagreement
 - B. Indolence – avoidance based on laziness
 - C. Flabbiness – easy-going to the point of being limp and useless, not caring, apathetic
 - D. Niceness – some people are naturally nice, and this is not a natural quality
 - E. Weakness – or personality or character
 - F. Compromising – peace at any price
- III. What Meekness Is
 - A. Found in strength, authority, and power rightly used
 1. It is not being sensitive about self and self-interested – “He that is down need fear no fall.” – John Bunyan
 2. It is leaving everything – ourselves, our lives, our rights, our cause, our whole future – on the hands of God
 - B. Controlled, Righteous Anger
 1. Aristotle defined the Greek word as it related to ethics by saying meekness is found between excessive anger and the inability to show anger at all
 2. “Blessed is the man who is always angry at the right time, and never angry at the wrong time.” – William Barclay – Psa. 4:4; Eph. 4:26

3. "A person who is angry on the right occasion and with the right people and at the right moment and for the right length of time" – Boice
 4. Selfish anger is always sin; selfless anger is a great moral dynamic
 5. Being like Jesus - Luke 19:41-46; 1 Peter 2:22-23
- C. Domestication - control
1. When animals accept the control of their masters and act accordingly
 2. When Christians are filled with the Spirit – Eph. 5:18-21; Gal. 5:22-23
- D. Subservient Trust before God – Psa. 37:11
1. Do not fret because of evil men – Psa. 37:1
 2. Trust in the Lord and do good – Psa. 37:3-5
 3. Delight in the Lord and be still before Him – Psa. 37:7
 4. Refrain from (control) anger and forsake rage (out of control anger) – Psa. 37:8
- IV. The Meekest Man – Numbers 12:1-16
- A. Moses' Spouses
1. Zipporah – a Midianite, descended from Abraham
 2. An Ethiopian – a black woman, not descended from Abraham
- B. Moses' Siblings
1. Miriam
 2. Aaron the High Priest
- C. Moses' Sin
1. His siblings believed that his "mixed marriage" was a compromise and based on their racial prejudice accused Moses, in their pride believed they were speaking for God
 2. Never mind that 2 of the tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, were descended from Joseph and his marriage to an Egyptian (not a descendant of Abraham)
- D. Miriam's Sentence – she was struck with leprosy and turned completely white all over
- E. Moses had not sinned, and did not defend himself, and even prayed for Miriam and she was healed – Moses is called the meekest man
- V. The Need for Meekness in the Church
- A. Not by Might, nor by Power, but By My Spirit – Zech. 4:6 – MLJ Quote #1
- B. Meekness is Needed for
1. Receiving the Word – James 1:21
 2. Defending the Faith – 1 Peter 3:15
 3. Rebuking One Another (Church Discipline) – Gal. 6:1; 1 Cor. 4:21
 4. Relating to One Another – 2 Cor. 10:1; Col. 3:12
- VI. Inheriting the Earth
- A. The Saints will Judge the World and Reign with Christ – 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12
- B. Having Nothing, Paul Possessed Everything – 2 Cor. 6:10; 1 Cor. 3:21-23
- C. We cannot be meek without grace – Matt. 11:28-29

MLJ Quote #1

"The Jewish leaders were seeking a Messiah to usher in a materialistic and militant kingdom. They wanted a conquering hero. In the church at present is there not a rather pathetic tendency to think in terms of fighting the world, and sin, and the things that are opposed to Christ by means of great organizations? There is a powerful enemy set against us so we must all get together, we must have one huge organization to face that organized enemy. Then we shall make an impact and then we shall conquer. But 'blessed are the meek,' not those who trust their own powers and abilities and institutions. It is the reverse of that." – Studies in the Sermon on the Mount, pg. 53

Cross References

Psalm 4:4

4 Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah

Ephesians 4:26

26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

Luke 19:41-46

41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” 45 Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, 46 saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”

1 Peter 2:22-23

22 “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth”; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Psalm 37:11

11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

Psalm 37:1

37 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

Psalm 37:3-5

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:7-8

7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.

Numbers 12

12 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. 2 So they said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?” And the Lord heard it. 3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.) 4 Suddenly the Lord said to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tabernacle of meeting!” So the three came out. 5 Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward. 6 Then He said, “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. 7 Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. 8 I speak with him face to face, Even plainly, and not in dark sayings; And he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant Moses?” 9 So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and He departed. 10 And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. 11 So Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12 Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother’s womb!” 13 So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “Please heal her, O God, I pray!” 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again.” 15 So Miriam was shut out of the camp seven days, and the people did not journey till Miriam was brought in again. 16 And afterward the people moved from Hazereth and camped in the Wilderness of Paran.

Zechariah 4:6

6 So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts.

James 1:21

21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1 Peter 3:15

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Galatians 6:1

6 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

1 Corinthians 4:21

21 What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

2 Corinthians 10:1

10 Now I, Paul, myself am pleading with you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—who in presence am lowly among you, but being absent am bold toward you.

Colossians 3:12

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

1 Corinthians 6:2

2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

2 Timothy 2:12

12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

2 Corinthians 6:10

10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. 23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Matthew 11:28-29

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 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.

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