THE FRUIT OF MEEKNESS

(The Fruits of the Spirit)

("Blessed are the meek" - Matthew 5:5)

What Jesus is saying is...
Blessed are those who HAVE SOFT HEARTS AND HUMBLE MINDS

Soft enough to allow God's word to penetrate our hearts and humble enough to trust His Word.

"Inherit the earth" - Why the earth? Why not heaven? Because the earth is where Christ is going to rule and reign for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1ff). The meek will inherit with Him ("joint heirs" - Rom. 8:17).

Key Context: SEE: Zeph. 1:18- 2:3 - The meek among Israel will be protected "hid" in the Day of the Lord's anger (Zeph. 2:3) and will inherit the earth in the future Millennium.

Ps. 37:11 - "But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

The word "meek" was used in Greek literally to describe:

1. Soothing medicine
2. A colt brought under control
3. A soft breeze

All have power, but if under control they are a refreshing blessing.

"Meekness" certainly is not weakness. For Christ was all powerful yet surrendered the independent exercise of that power (Phil. 2:5ff)

EX: Hymn - "There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus . . . No friend like Him is so high and holy . . . and yet nor friend is so meek and lowly" (Victorious, # 208)

Christ was meek (Matt. 11:29 - "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." Mt. 21:5 - "Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.")

Moses was meek (Num. 12:3 - "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the fact of the earth.")

"Meek" - to be mild - mannered, to be gentle (not harsh or abrasive). It is the "fine blend of spiritual poise and strength" (Robertson, p. 41).

Meekness is the gentleness that comes from being truly humble. It is the result of humility; the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23).

True meekness is not effeminate, rather it has a blend of strong iron and soft velvet. It is masculinity at its highest.

"Meekness" is in a sense to be "cool, calm, and collected." It is to be in control of your sinful emotions. It is to have an "accurate self-image."

Meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; the opposite of arrogance, pride, selfish ambition, stubborn/rebellious spirit.

It takes meekness (gentleness; mildness) to do the following:

1. To receive God's Word (Ja. 1:21 - *"Wherefore, lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls")*

2. To restore an erring brother (Gal. 6:1 - *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.")*

3. To be a servant of the Lord (II Tim. 2:24-26 - *"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.")*

4. To be a godly woman (I Pet. 3:4 - *"But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.")*

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