



BUILT to Last

"These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock." But if you just use my words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach. When a storm rolled in and the waves came up, it collapsed like a house of cards." Matthew 7:24-27(MSG)

Some things we have covered:

- We don't know the strength of our life until we've gone through the **testings** of life. "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)
- The **foundation** of your life matters.
- God's **word** is the foundation we need for a strong life.

The beatitudes identify:

- The difference between this world and God's **Kingdom**.
- The difference between a follower of Jesus and an **unbeliever**.
- Beatitudes reflect the **king** and the **citizens** of the kingdom we belong to.

The Definition is:

"**Blessed**" - (1) A different attitude because of God's favor or (2) A changed mindset that comes from God's blessings.

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

What it means to be meek:

Meekness is strength brought under **control**.

Meekness is not **passive** but **active**.

The meek don't make **demands** for personal position, privilege, possessions and status in this life.

Meekness is also the absence of **retaliation**.

Meekness is the resistance to assert ourselves **for ourselves**.

Meekness is not using our strength and resources **against** others, but **for** others.

The meek put themselves, their rights, and their future in the **hands of God**.

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

..learn from me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:29 (KJV)

..you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns. Matthew 16:23 (NIV)

- The "meek" don't just **"give in"** without stating what is right; they speak the **truth** and leave the results in God's hands.

Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?" Matthew 26:53-54 (NLT)

- The result of demanding our rights is **anger**, while the results of surrendering our rights to God is **meekness**.

Why this is so important:

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

- How we respond to living in meekness shows which **world** we are wanting to get **ahead** in.

"Don't worry about suffering, if you are meek, you will reign with Christ" 2 Timothy 2:12
Revelation 21:1-3

- Meekness makes us like the **King** of the kingdom.

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly." 1 Peter 2:21-23

He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away... Isaiah 53:3-8 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Talk about the progression of the first three beatitudes. How do they build on each other?
- Talk about the first three points of "Things we've covered". Are these important issues for your life? Explain
- Explain how these beatitudes (More specifically meekness) reflects the King and citizens of the kingdom of God.
- Discuss each of the points under the sub-heading: "What it means to be meek". Does your natural man tell you these are dumb and ridiculous? Which of these seems most difficult for you?
- Talk about the difference between this world's retaliation and assertiveness verses the Kingdom of Heaven.
- How is meekness not passive but rather assertive?
- How does surrendering to God's will and giving up our rights result in meekness?
- How does meekness make us more like Jesus? Why is that important for us as followers of Christ?
- How can you use your strength for God and others this week?
- We were created to bring glory to God. How does meekness bring God glory?

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