

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduction

Who inherits the earth? It is JESUS, which means you and I do as well. No matter what happens, no matter what people do, no matter what people say, no matter what is culturally acceptable at the moment, we do. Which means we must live like it is ours now, not in a snobbish way, but where wickedness does not have a place in it, and the Kingdom of God is seen in His people.

Discussion

What have you inherited or what do you hope to inherit?

Explanation

Who do you think "inherits the earth," according to our world's values today?

How does the way of Christ differ from the way of the world we live in?

Application

- Read Psalm 37:9-11

How would you define "meek," in this sense?

What things do we currently do to stake our claim of the earth?

Why do we feel the need to do these things?

Mission

As followers of Christ, how can we live like co-inheritors of the Kingdom of God?

What encouragement would you offer to those who feel like they have lost out or been left behind?

Homework

- Read Matthew 5:1-5

When are the times in your life when you have felt most free?

TODAY'S VERSES

Matthew 5:1-5

Isaiah 60:21

Psalm 37:1, 11, 9, 18, 22

Matthew 11:2-3

Matthew 19:28

Matthew 6:10

Hebrews 13:8

Malachi 3:6

Psalm 23:19

Psalm 102:25-27

Isaiah 43:10

Exodus 3:14

Psalm 33:11

Matthew 11:29

Matthew 21:5

OUR ELEMENT BIBLE STUDY/JESUS

Inheriting the Earth 4 Matthew 5:5



SERMON

On The Mount





INHERITING THE EARTH

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

The word "meek" (is pronounced very close to "prays" in the Greek text) is hard to define. The word can mean many different things:

- It can signify the absence of pretension (1 Peter 3:4, 14–15)
- It suggests gentleness (James 3:13). The King James actually translates Matthew 5:5 with the word gentle.
- It can mean self-control.

The Greek speaking world extolled humility in wise men and rulers, but the "humility" of these wise men was about condescension. In general the Greeks considered meekness a vice because they failed to distinguish it from servility.

To be meek toward others implies freedom from malice and a vengeful spirit. Jesus best exemplifies it (Matthew 11:29; 21:5). Meekness applies to our attitudes toward others. We may acknowledge our own bankruptcy (Matthew 5:3) and mourn (v. 4), but to respond with meekness when others tell us of our bankruptcy is far harder to do if we don't understand the promises of God. Meekness requires a true view about ourselves that expresses itself in our attitude toward others.

The meek—not the strong, aggressive, harsh, tyrannical—will inherit the earth. The verb "inherit" often relates to "entrance" as in going into the Promised Land (e.g. Deut 4:1; 16:20; cf. Isaiah 57:13; 60:21). But the specific Old Testament allusion is Psalm 37:9, 11, 29. Entrance into the Promised Land ultimately became a pointer toward entrance into the new heaven and *the new earth* ("earth" is the same word as "land"), the consummation of the messianic kingdom.

When we are meek towards God, it means we have a disposition of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good; that means we do not complain, dispute or resist it. In the Old Testament the meek are those wholly relying on God rather than their own strength to defend against injustice.

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 (Isaiah 41:17, Luke 18:1-8). Gentleness or meekness is the opposite of doing things for simply our own self-interest. It stems from trust in God's goodness and control over any and every situation. The gentle person is not occupied with self at all. This is a work of the Holy Spirit, not of the human will (Galatians 5:23).



Today we say we place a high position on the idea of meekness in the list of human virtues, this is due to the example and teaching of Jesus. Pagan writers would pay greater respect to the "self-confident man."

Meekness is also a quality of the Messianic King (Zechariah 9:9) and the theme of Psalm 37:11, 'the meek shall inherit the earth,' this is one of the reasons Jesus speaks about it the Beatitudes. Meekness is also held up in the account of Moses, that he, while maintaining strength of leadership, was ready to accept personal injury without resentment or recrimination (Numbers 12:1–3).

What is the difference between meekness and gentleness?

Meekness refers to an inward attitude, where gentleness is expressed in outward action. They are both part of the fruit of Christ like character which is produced only by the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:23). The meek do not resent adversity because they accept everything as being the effect of God's wise and loving purpose for them.

In the New Testament the meekness and gentleness of Christ was the source of Paul's own plea to the disloyal Corinthians (2 Cor. 10:1). He said in meekness (using the Greek word) was the spirit in which to rebuke a person in error (2 Timothy 2:25), and it is also how we will bear with one another (Ephesians 4:2).

Peter also exhorted that the inquiring, arguing, and defending the faith should be done, but it must be done in meekness (1 Petet 3:15). Meekness is revealed in the character of Jesus as He also suffered His unjust accusers without a word of retort or self-justification.

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CONNECT PARTY

This Friday, 7pm
RSVP at info@ourelement.org

BAPTISM CLASS

What & Why of Baptism
Today at 12:30pm in the lounge.

ELEMENT U

A six week course on Apologetics
Starts March 5th at 6:30pm

SEE ALL UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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