

The Beatitudes: The Meek
1.23.22

Opening Liturgy

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you

As the day rises to meet the sun

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

What's Happening This Week

- Want to be in the know? Text BUMCSM to 84576 for text alerts
- Join us at 5:45 pm for dinner, worship, and small groups through the cafe
- Don't forget that the Summer Mission Trips are now open!

Scripture Reading:

O Word made flesh, speak through us : words that bring new life.

Matthew 5:7

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and Jesus began to teach them.

Jesus said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Psalms 37:1-7; 10:11

Here's the Deal:

Recap: The Beatitudes is the title given to a special sermon from Jesus called the Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus introduced a radically different way of thinking. After reading the above scripture, what does this make you think of? In what ways is this counter cultural to our everyday lives? If you can follow these teachings, you will definitely stand out as being different – there's no question about it. The promised outcomes of this life seem too good to be true.

This week, we will be focusing on the third paradox: Blessed are the meek; for they will inherit the earth. Most people today don't really understand what Jesus meant by "meek." The word meek means something different today than it did when Jesus used it. The world tells us that it isn't a good thing to be meek. They think meek means weak. Once we understand what Jesus means by meek, we will have a better chance at being meek.

Your dictionary at home might say meek means "having or showing a quiet and gentle nature: not wanting to fight or argue with other people." Well, the Greek word for meek (which is what Matthew could have been originally written in) was used in a couple of different ways. Sailors would use the word meek to describe a gentle breeze. Farmers would use the word meek to describe a wild animal, like a horse, that had been trained to submit to and follow the farmer's lead. Both these definitions describe strength under control. The sailor harnesses the power of the wind using his sails, so his boat can move. The farmer trains wild horses so they can be used for farm work, like plowing fields and riding. The wind doesn't become weak when the sailor uses it to sail, and neither does the horse become weak when he does farm work or when people ride him. The power of the wind and the power of the horse are used, not lost. So when Jesus says Christians are meek, he is not saying they are weak. He is saying they submit to God's will and they let God lead their lives. Meek people trust in the Lord because they know that God's ways are best. In what ways have you been fighting against God's will so that you will seem strong to the world around you?

Prayer for Others:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you : wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness : protect you through the storm; may he bring you home rejoicing : at the wonders he has shown you; may he bring you home rejoicing : once again into our doors. Amen