



TRUTH IN LOVE

Shedding Light on the Word of God

Dying to Be Meek*

Matthew 5:5

Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

J. Upton Dickson founded a group of submissive people who called themselves DOORMATS, an acronym that stands for “Dependent Organization of Really Meek And Timid Souls—if there are no objections.” Their motto was taken from Matthew 5:5, “The meek shall inherit the earth—if that’s okay with everybody.” The DOORMATS never gained much prominence. But then, what do you expect? Those who allow themselves to be dominated will never gain much dominance.

Or will they?

According to Jesus, the **meek...shall inherit the earth**. Does that mean we should all join the DOORMATS? No. Dickson has misunderstood meekness. Despite what most think, meekness is not weakness. In Greek literature, the word **meek** (*prais*) is used of breaking in a horse, and carries the idea of explosive energy under control. To be meek is when we, out of humility, think of others before ourselves so that we use our strength and abilities to help them (cf. Php 2:3). Meekness is force and power held in check; the perfect blend of spiritual poise and strength.¹

In Matthew 5:3, Jesus taught that His disciples must be desperate for the things of God. In 5:4, He taught that we must mourn over our sinfulness. Now in 5:5, He teaches that true disciples use their strengths and abilities to serve others. Disciples are not weak. Rather, they are powerfully-enabled individuals who use their gifts to serve and edify others.

These are basic discipleship principles, and as always, Christ is the perfect example. Jesus was no doormat, but revealed that true meekness leads to death. Though Christ was God, He humbled Himself and became nothing, even submitting to death on the cross (Php 2:6-8). Why? Not because He was weak, but because He was so powerful. Yet He used that great power to benefit others. His greatest gift to mankind was in coming to this earth to die on the cross for our sins so that anybody who believed in Him would have everlasting life. As a result, Philippians 2:9-11 tells us that God has exalted Christ above all else. Scripture elsewhere tells us that He will rule the earth with an iron scepter and all nations will be under his feet (Psa 2:8-9; Rev 20–22). Christ will inherit the earth.

If we follow in His footsteps, we too **shall inherit the earth**. In life, an inheritance is received when one of our relatives die. But in spiritual life, we receive our inheritance when we ourselves die. When we are meek as Jesus was meek, we will receive part of the inheritance He received. We will be joint-heirs and co-rulers with Christ. Those who believe in Him for eternal life, but do not follow Him in this life, will still enter heaven, but will not share in His inheritance (1 Cor 3:14-15; Rev 2:26; 3:21).

Inheriting the earth is synonymous with inheriting the kingdom (Matt 25:34; 1 Cor 6:9-10; 15:50; Gal 5:21; Eph 5:5), but is distinct from entering the kingdom. Entering the kingdom is always by the grace of God to all who believe in Jesus for eternal life. But inheriting the earth and inheriting the kingdom are always stated with some sort of work that must be done, or character trait that must be developed in order to receive eternal reward. Furthermore, here in context, “The Lord seems to be equating the terms ‘theirs is the kingdom of heaven’ with ‘inherit the earth.’ ... [It] was an additional blessing to those who were already saved.”²

Meekness is not about being a doormat. It’s about dying to self for the sake of others. Those who do so shall inherit the earth.

*This, and other articles in this series, can be found at www.tillhecomes.org

¹ Robertson’s Word Pictures, Matt 5:5.

² Joseph Dillow, *Reign of the Servant Kings* (Hayesville, NC: Schoettle, 1993), 77.