



THE BEATITUDES
“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK”
MATT. 5: 5

WE MUST STUDY THIS VERSE IN LIGHT OF THE PREVIOUS TWO VERSES BECAUSE WE MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT IN THESE BEATITUDES OUR LORD IS DESCRIBING THE ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF GOD’S WORK OF GRACE AS IT IS REALIZED IN OUR SOULS. FIRST, THERE IS A POVERTY OF SPIRIT, WHICH IS A SENSE OF OUR INSUFFICIENCY AND NOTHINGNESS. NEXT, THERE IS A MOURNING OVER OUR LOST CONDITION AND OUR SINS. AND NOW, AS WE COME TO THE THIRD BEATITUDE, WE ARE TO HAVE MEEKNESS AS A BY-PRODUCT OF OUR SELF-EMPTYING AND SELF-HUMILIATION.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE “MEEK”

“MEEKNESS” IS NOT SYNONYMOUS WITH “WEAKNESS”. THE WORLD TENDS TO THINK OF A MEEK PERSON AS SOMEONE WHO IS FEEBLE, FRAIL, AND FRAGILE. BUT THE LITERAL MEANING OF THE WORD MEANS “A YIELDEDNESS.” IT REFERS TO LOWLINESS, GENTLENESS, AND HUMILITY, BUT IT IS MUCH BETTER DESCRIBED AS ‘STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL.’ IT IS THE OPPOSITE OF WEAKNESS BECAUSE IT TAKES A CERTAIN MORAL STRENGTH TO ADMIT HOW DESPERATELY WE NEED GOD AND YIELD UNRESERVEDLY TO HIM.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY UNHAPPY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD? BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT ADMIT HOW POVERTY-STRICKEN THEY ARE. THEY WILL NOT MOURN FOR THEIR SIN, NOR WILL THEY YIELD TO GOD. BUT A TRULY HAPPY PERSON IS A MEEK PERSON, ONE WHO HAS A TEACHABLE SPIRIT AND NEVER ELEVATES HIMSELF ABOVE GOD OR ANYONE ELSE.

THE INHERITANCE OF THE “MEEK”

“BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH.” IF WE INHERIT SOMETHING, THEN IT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS. THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT WE ARE MEEK IN OUR ATTITUDES. WE CAN INTERPRET THIS INHERITANCE IN SEVERAL WAYS. FIRST, WE CAN INHERIT THE EARTH LITERALLY. SECOND, WE CAN INHERIT THE EARTH IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE. THE SPIRIT OF MEEKNESS IS WHAT ENABLES US TO GET ENJOYMENT OUT OF LIFE, WHETHER WE ARE RICH OR POOR. A MEEK PERSON IS DELIVERED FROM GREED AND IS SATISFIED WITH WHAT HE HAS AND IS.

IF WE ARE NOT MEEK, THEN ONLY A PART OF THIS EARTH WILL EVER BELONG TO US, BUT IF WE ARE, THEN THE WHOLE EARTH IS OUR INHERITANCE, AND ALSO HEAVEN ITSELF.