

Matthew 5:5

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Many Bible students enjoy reading scriptures from the section that is generally called the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5 through 7 in the book of Matthew).

When Christ saw the multitude, He went up on a mountain (Matthew 5:1). When He was seated, His disciples came to Him (same verse). Then, He began to teach them (verse 2). Today, let's look at Matthew 5:5.

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

The meek

Let us first acknowledge that the Son of God (often identified as a role model) was not pictured as weak or afraid.

Matthew 21:12—"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves."

Later, the Son of God instructed Peter there was a time for a strong person to refrain from using strength.

Matthew 26:51-53—"And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?' "

John's Gospel account of Matthew 26:51-53 is described in John 18:10-11.

John 18:10-11—"Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?' "

A short time later, John quoted the Son of God explaining this behavior again.

John 18:36—"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.' "

Therefore, we see that meekness was a choice that the Son of God made.

Philippians 2:8—"And being formed in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

A follower of the Son of God realizes that meekness is not weakness. A follower of the Son of God seeks to be a strong person who analyzes his own life to determine the appropriate time and manner to display meekness.

Inherit the earth

Many Bible students interpret the phrase "inherit the earth" in two ways.

- First, many people view this phrase to mean that obeying God produces blessings during the physical life on earth—in addition to eternal life.
- Second, many people also view this phrase to mean that eternal life in God's Kingdom will be associated with a renewed earth.

2 Peter 3:10—"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."

2 Peter 3:13—"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

Revelation 21:1-2—"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."