“The King’s Blessed People: Confidence in God”

Matthew 5:1-12; Psalm 37:1-11

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 8/7/22)

[Seth Hoisington, our IN FAITH missionary, reminded us of Jesus’ two commands in Matt. 28: evangelize and make disciples. Please pray for him while he is ministering in Florida.]

Imagine a world whose people are gladly ruled by Christ, whose people love His law and live for His glory. Imagine a world whose people exude confidence in God, a confidence that takes the form of selflessness, patience, and self-control. Imagine a world where people are not quickly offended or easily provoked. Imagine a world where people don’t “put down” others. God’s anointed King is bringing this Heaven to earth: a new beginning for God’s people. God is saving His people from sin- the power of sin, the penalty of sin, and someday from the presence of sin. As His Kingdom grows **within** and **among** His people, the King’s people season the world **with His very nature**… a blessed precursor to Christ’s ultimate and eternal rule over all things. **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matt. 5:5**

In the Sermon on the Mount, the King describes what His people are to look like. They are being made to look more and more like Him, exhibiting His character traits. Look at the verb tense in Matt. 5:3. The verb “is” means that the Kingdom is yours NOW! God’s people live in the realm of His blessing NOW! Don’t forget who you are, and don’t forget whose you are. Now look at the verb tense in Matt. 5:4-9. The “shall” indicates that, as blessed as you are now, your best days are yet to come! (Isa. 65:17 and 2Pet. 3:13) In the new Heaven and the new earth there will be no more battles with sin within, and no more battles with sin without. We can be happy, no matter how dire the circumstances, because we know the King!

 Meekness can be defined as poor in spirit in our relationship with God and with other people. Meekness is not weakness. It is not passivity. Meekness is not a natural character trait: it’s a work of the Spirit of God. When meekness is set against the darkness of this world, it really stands out. Meekness was on full display in Gethsemane (Matt. 26:47-56). Meekness is strength and ability under the control of the Spirit of God. In horse racing, the meekest horse responds best to his trainer. How are we responding to our training? Do others detect your strength under control? Is meekness growing within you? Are your emotions and ability under the control of the Spirit?

 Let’s study meekness further in Ps. 37:1-11. David sings of meekness in stark contrast to a world that lives apart from God. (Ps. 37:1-2) The meek are surrounded by evil-doers. We can be aware of evil, but we’re not to become unhinged by evil (fretting). Always remember that NOTHING takes place outside of the sovereign will of God. The meek live with an active, lively confidence in God. (37:3) The meek are nourished by God’s faithfulness, not their surroundings. They are content where God has planted them. The meek want to live for the glory of God. The meek measure success by their obedience to God. (37:4) The meek run to God in times of need. The meek live with contentment as they cultivate faithfulness to God. The meek believe that God always gives good things to His children (Rom. 8:28). Meekness is the opposite of self-sufficiency. (37:5) What path are you on? Are you trusting in Him? (37:7) The meek heed the call of their Master: “Follow Me.” (37:8) Fretting about the world around you is weakness. Fretting is being discontent with God’s agenda. Fretting causes harm to ourselves. (37:9-10) A day is coming when evil and sin will not be on earth; there will be nothing left that offends God. As we mature, we should look more and more like our King. God’s character trait of meekness (that He is putting into us) should be on display to the world through His church, His family. **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matt. 5:5**

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Which is a bigger problem for you: the sin without, or the sin within? Why?
2. How did Jesus display meekness in Gethsemane?
3. Psalm 37 gives us a pretty complete definition of meekness. Which part of the definition surprised you? Why?
4. What gets in the way of meekness growing in the church? What gets in the way of meekness growing in you? Be specific.
5. (Personal) This Kingdom we are talking about is exclusively for God’s family. Are you part of that family? Have you said, “I am a repentant sinner, so poor in spirit that I know my ONLY hope is God’s grace through Jesus. He is my only hope of acceptance by God. He is my only hope of resurrection to eternal life. He remembers my sin no more. I am kept secure, not by my own living, but by God Himself.” This is the Gospel in a nutshell. Which of your family members needs to hear this from you?

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me” (Fanny Crosby)

All the way my Savior leads me;

 What have I to ask beside?

Can I doubt His tender mercy,

 Who through life has been my Guide?

Heav’nly peace, divinest comfort,

 Here by faith in Him to dwell!

For I know, whate’er befall me,

 Jesus doeth all things well,

For I know, whate’er befall me,

 Jesus doeth all things well.

 All the way my Savior leads me,

 Cheers each winding path I tread,

Gives me grace for every trial,

 Feeds me with the living bread.

Though my weary steps may falter,

 And my soul athirst may be,

Gushing from the Rock before me,

 Lo! a spring of joy I see,

(repeat)