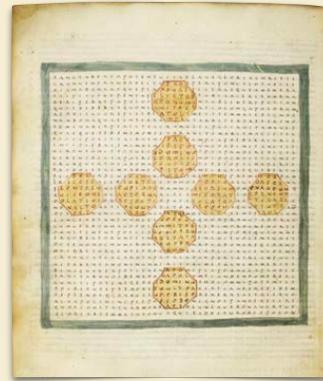


# Blessed

Matthew 5:1-12 & Luke 6:17-26

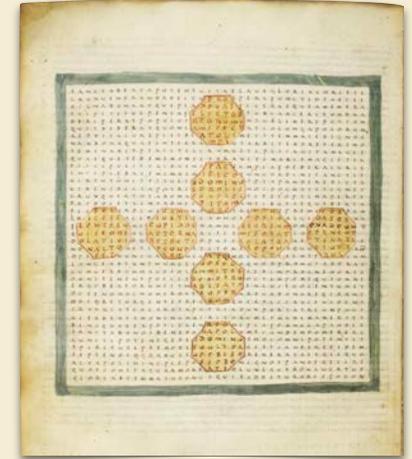


A Spring Sermon Series on the Beatitudes

## Yielding Your Ground

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).

May 18, 2025  
Pastor Tyler Williams  
Greenfield Community Church



MEEKNESS

*is not*

WEAKNESS!

## Blessed are the Meek

"Blessed are *the meek*, for they will inherit the earth" (NIV).

"God blesses *those who are humble*, for they will inherit the whole earth" (NLT).

"*The gentle* are blessed, for they will inherit the earth" (HCSB).

"You're blessed when *you're content with just who you are*—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought" (MSG).

## The Meek in the New Testament

**Adjective** (4x): πραυς *praus* – not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance; *gentle, humble, considerate, meek* (Matt 5:5; 11:29; 21:5; 1Peter 3:4).

**Noun** (11x): πραυτης *prautes* — gentleness of attitude and behaviour; *meekness, gentleness, humility* (1Cor 4:21; 2Cor 10:1; Gal 5:23; 6:1; Eph 4:2; Col 3:12; 2Tim 2:25; Titus 3:2; James 1:21; 3:13; 1Peter 3:16).

## The Meek in the Old Testament

Translates the Hebrew word *ʿānāw* (ענו), which refers first to the poor, the afflicted (*ʿanawîm*), and then to the humble, the meek, lowly, and gentle.

- "And Moses was very meek [πραυς *praus*], more than anyone else on the face of the earth" (LXX Num 12:3).
- "O Lord, remember David and all his meekness [πραυτητος *prautetos*]" (LXX Ps 132:1).

## The Meek in the Old Testament

Psalm 37 provides the background to this beatitude as Jesus explicitly quotes verse 11 ("The meek will inherit the land/earth").

The promise of inheriting the land is repeated four times in the psalm:

- Refrain from anger, forsake wrath, and hope in Yahweh (37:7-9);
- Are meek (37:11);
- Are the generous righteous who are blessed by Yahweh (37:21-22); and
- Are those who hope in Yahweh and keep to his way (37:34).

## The Promise: Inherit the Earth

The meek will “inherit the earth/land” (Heb. אָרֶץ; Grk. γῆ).

- In OT context it is referring to the land promised to Abraham (Gen 12:1-3; 15:7, 18; 17:8; Psalm 37).
- In the NT, this shifts to the new heaven and new earth, the day when God’s kingdom will come in its fulness.
- The word “inherit” emphasizes grace, not merit.

## The Promise: Inherit the Earth

*“It is in and through Jesus Christ that the meek shall inherit the earth.* In him they are the ultimate inheritors of the promise made originally to Abraham. The promise to Abraham of the land—‘the land that I will show you’ (Gen 12:1)—underwent many variations throughout the history of the covenant, until *in Christ it became the promise of the kingdom.* Moreover, the blessing given to Abraham was universal in scope: ‘In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’ (Gen 12:3). In Christ this promise is at last fulfilled for all, but only by including the one group in particular most excluded from earthly goods in this life: the meek. Universality is shown precisely by including the outcast” (George Hunsinger, *The Beatitudes*).

## Jesus Exemplifies the Meek

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; *for I am meek [praus] and humble in heart*, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt 11:28-30; 21:5).

Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, *meek [praus] and riding on a donkey*, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Matt 21:5).

## “Meek” = “Yielding Your Ground”

“The strength of character required to ground one’s relationships in something other than pride and power” (Kenneson)

The meek are “those whose wills are surrendered to God” (Stassen).

“The meek... renounce all rights of their own *for the sake of Jesus Christ*” (Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*, 105).

“Meekness *willingly yields to the other and to God*, not out of weakness but as a voluntary renunciation” (Ecklund, 147)

## How to Yield Your Ground

Start with *Yielding your Ground* to God in Prayer.

- Meekness is part of the work God will do in our lives as we live in growing submission to God (1Thess 5:17).
- The Spirituality of Meekness & Brother Lawrence (1614-91 AD).



## How to Yield Your Ground

Continue with *Yielding your Ground* to others in Humility.

- Learn to submit and yield to others in love.
- “In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...” (Phil 2:3-5).

## Invitation

It is first and finally Jesus who defines what it means to be meek.

And I encourage all of us to *yield our ground* to God and accept the yoke of Jesus, for he is “meek and humble in heart,” and in him we will find rest for our souls.