**The Blessed Character of the Gentle – Matt. 5:5**

**Focal Truth: Believers are blessed because of their gentleness**

Review

The Christian is poor in spirit – recognizing their sinfulness

The Christian is a mourner - grieving over the misery of sinfulness

**Observations**

1. **What is gentleness?**
2. Gentleness is a **mildness** of mind & character – absence of intensity & severity
3. Gentleness is **willing acceptance** of God’s will for life – “the Lord gives & takes away”
4. Gentleness is **quiet calmness** in spirit – “He was clothed in his right mind” – Lk.8:35
5. Gentleness is a spiritual grace produced by the Holy Spirit - Gal. 5:23
6. **Gentleness controls our passions**

Pr. 15:1 – a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger

1. **Gentleness endures hurts from others**

1 Cor. 13 – it is not easily provoked

Ps. 38:12,13 - those who seek my life lay snares for me, and those who seek to injure me have threatened destruction, and they devise treachery all day long. But I am like a deaf man, do not hear, and I am like a mute man who does not open his mouth

1. **Gentleness is forgiving – a gentle spirit is a forgiving spirit**

People forget kindness but remember hurts – the woman said on her deathbed, “I cannot forgive even if I go to hell!”

Phil. 4:5 – let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Gentle forgiveness is real – Matt. 18:27 – the master felt compassion, released him and forgave him the debt

Gentle forgiveness is full – Mark 11:25 – when you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions

Gentle forgiveness is often – Matt. 18:21 – 22 – Lord how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven

1. **Gentleness does good for evil**

Luke 6:35 – love your enemies, and do good…

Rom. 12:20 – if your enemy is hungry feed him

1 Pet. 3:9 – not rendering evil for evil but a blessing

Ps. 35:11 – 14 - malicious witnesses rise up, they ask me of things that I do not know. They repay me evil for good, to the bereavement of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth, I humbled my soul with fasting and my prayer kept returning to my bosom. I went about as though it were my friend or brother, I bowed down mourning as one who sorrows for a mother.

1. **Gentleness is Christlikeness**

Matt. 11: 28 -29 – come to me all who are weary and heavy – laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls

We learn gentleness from the gentleness of Christ

1 Pet. 2:21 -23 – for you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you and example to follow His steps, who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in his mouth, and while being reviled, He did not revile in return, while suffering, he uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously

1. **Gentleness is blessedness**

Matt. 5:5 – the gentle shall inherit the earth

The gentle inherit the earth because they have live in God’s blessing on the earth

The gentle inherit the earth because they have the peace of God on the earth

Ps. 37:11 – the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace – NKJV

The gentle will reign with Christ on the earth in the millennial reign of Christ

Rev. 5:9 -10 – you are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign on the earth.

**Things to Remember & do**

1. Clothe yourself with gentleness in all your behavior – Col. 3:12 – so as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience
2. Hear God’s word with gentleness – James 1:21 – putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility – gentleness receive the word implanted which is able to save your souls
3. Restore the sinner who has sinned with gentleness – Gal. 6:1 – if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, each looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted

**Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace. The Lord is near the door! Come Lord Jesus!**