

THE ATTITUDE OF LIVING BEAUTIFULLY IN A BROKEN WORLD # 3 Erik Jespersen

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth". Matt 5v5

Aims: To demonstrate that meekness is not weakness but that living meekly is a compellingly beautiful way to live which in turn entices us to do something meek.

Meekness is not timid, shy or powerless, but strong, confident, dynamic and powerful. Jesus described himself: *"I am gentle and humble in heart"* Matt 11v29.

Meekness is laying one's power down for the sake of another. Phil 2v6-11 show Jesus as supreme example. John 13v3 *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power* he then washes the disciples' feet. Matt 20v28 *Jesus came to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many* John 10 *I am the good shepherd... (who) lays down his life for the sheep.* Revelation reveals Jesus having all power and authority but he comes as redeemer to save the world. Col 1v19-20 *Jesus had God's fulness in him but used it to reconcile all things.* 2 Cor 8v9 *Christ gave up his riches so we could become rich through his sacrifice.*

The Beatitudes give an insight into Christ's own way of living.

Blessed is Christ who embraces our spiritual poverty and lostness on the cross so we would gain heaven.

Blessed is Christ who enters our mourning, embracing grief and rejection so he could be our comforter.

Blessed is Christ who takes a posture of meekness for our salvation.

Blessed is Christ who hungers and thirsts for God's righteousness to be restored, leading us into it.

Blessed is Christ who demonstrates relentless mercy, showing us what it is really like.

Blessed is Christ who carries a purity of heart, a worshipful and adoring posture to the Father.

Blessed is Christ the ultimate peacemaker, the firstborn of all God's children who carry the royal DNA.

Blessed is Christ who embraces persecution. He endured the cross for the joy set before him (Heb 12v2).

Last week we were reminded that the Beattitudes are prophetic and reflect Isa 61v1-2 which Jesus quoted in Luke 4v18-19 as his mandate. This shows God mending broken lives.

The first hearers of this teaching were living under the rule of Rome but Jesus promised that his Kingdom would break through - the meek will inherit. Reflect on Ps 37. Use this to encourage you.

The meek live beautifully in a broken world and use their resources for the purposes of God. Gal 5v23 (Msg) *We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.*

Erik highlighted a number of examples from within the congregation where meekness is exemplified - individuals preferring to use their gifts for God's purpose rather than their own betterment. They demonstrate Phil 2v4 *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others* and so are like Christ.

The posture of meekness requires a ruthless willingness, a continual choice of consistently surrendering to God. Inheriting the earth is not the consolation prize but the natural outcome for the meek. Someone once said that following Christ is training for reigning. We can live like Jesus exemplified.

- Erik said that Prov 3v5-6 are his and Rebecca's "life verses" What does he mean by that? And how could these verses apply to your life? Do you have other "life verses" you want to share?
- How do you react to Erik's notion that the Beattitudes reflect the life of Jesus?
- What things hold us back from living meekly?
- Erik closed with the words of "All to Jesus I surrender" (by Robin Mark) (find lyrics on Google). Meditate on the words. Maybe as a Collective you could conclude with communion?