

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK (Who're Not Weak!)

Mt 5:5; Is 11:2; Jn 1:12-13; Rm 8:14-17; I Tim 2:2, 5:4

I. DEFINING (prais=meek) via SYNONYMS

- A. Controlling anger, resentment—Aristotle's "golden mean"
- B. Tranquil, calm ("not showing or feeling nervousness, anger, or other strong emotions," a rock amidst the storm—Jesus re house built on rock)
- C. Mild, (OE *milde*, originally in the sense "gracious, not severe in command," not given to excitement, guarded in emotional display)
- D. Gentle (moderate in action, effect, or degree; not harsh or severe)—e.g. tame horse; gentleman, lady, refined
- E. Patient, long-suffering ("able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious")—enduring insults, injuries
- F. Forgiving—refusing to retaliate, seek revenge
- G. Courteous ("polite, respectful, or considerate in manner")—abiding by honor-code, respectful of traditions,
- H. Kind ("having or showing a friendly, generous, and considerate nature")—akin to kin, as in kinfolk
- I. Quiet ("carried out discreetly, secretly, or with moderation")—often tending to taciturnity, never "class clown" or joker or seeking to be center of attention
- J. Even-keeled equanimity ("mental calmness, composure, and evenness of temper, especially in a difficult situation"), not easily excited
- K. Docile, obedient ("complying or willing to comply with orders or requests; submissive to another's will—willing to follow proper orders, counter to current obsession with "leadership")
- L. Chivalrous ("courteous and gallant")—as with strong, courageous knights, ready to defend and serve

II. ILLUSTRATING THE ATTRIBUTE

- A. Biblical examples: Moses; Jesus (Mt 11:29)
- B. Biblical texts: Paul (2 Cor 10:1); Peter (I Pe 3:4)
- B. Historical contrasts
 - 1. Compare Desiderius Erasmus with Martin Luther
 - 2. Compare R.E. Lee with JEB Stuart
 - 3. Compare Ike with George Patton

III. INHERITING EARTH

- A. Moses leads Israelites to Canaan Land
- B. In time, God's time, His people will inherit ALL (Re 21:7)
- C. Here-and-now, the meek actually enjoy creation, life, others

IV. GIFT of PIETY (a gift of the Spirit) ADDS INSIGHT

- A. Enables authentic worship (attributing worth to) of The Father
 - 1. Progenitor (both earthly & heavenly) praised as "maker and giver of life"
 - 2. Paterfamilias—head of family
 - 3. Pedagogue (both earthly & heavenly) followed
- B. Pietistic Pioneers (leaving treasury of devotional classics, continually read by devout souls)—Fathers of the Church; Medieval Mystics; English Puritans; German (Lutheran) Pietists; American Evangelicals; English & American Methodists: John & Charles Wesley; E. Stanley Jones
- C. Pietistic Practices
 - 1. Public worship "services" designed to touch heart, elicit laymen's involvement
 - 2. Personal devotions: Bible reading & studies, both private & corporate; prayer;
- D. Doing One's Duty
 - 1. Procreation (Gn 1:28): be fruitful & multiply; *Paterfamilia*, maintaining godly families, with fathers ("do not exasperate your children") & mothers ("submit to your husbands") & children ("obey your parents") all doing assigned tasks (cf. Paul's instructions in Eph 5:22-6:4)
 - 2. Stewardship (Gn 2:15): tend garden, care for creation—godly vocations
 - 3. Morality: Keeping Commandments:--Decalogue internalized, institutionalized, defended
 - 4. Discipleship: learning from, patterning after, Master
 - 5. Charity: corporal acts of mercy