

Meekness: Strength Under God's Control

May 13, 2026

Summary

Meekness: Strength Under Control

Scripture References

Primary text

- Matthew 5:5

Other references

- Romans 8:29
- Matthew 19:14
- John 2:13-17
- Matthew 7:29
- Matthew 23
- Romans 13

Overview

Meekness is not weakness; it is real power submitted to God's purpose. In the third Beatitude Jesus promises that the meek will inherit the earth, showing that true strength is recognized and rewarded in His kingdom. By looking at Christ as both gentle Lamb and conquering Lion we learn how power, position, intellect, and emotion are to be used—never hidden, never flaunted, always directed by the Spirit. The session moved from defining meekness, to exposing common distortions, to exploring everyday ways believers can walk in “strength under control.”

Main Points

1. The Beatitudes as a “celestial ladder”

- Spurgeon called the Beatitudes a ladder by which believers ascend while the flesh descends.
- Each statement describes qualities God is steadily forming in every kingdom citizen—not an instant finish line but a lifelong growth track.
- Poverty of spirit, mourning over sin, and now meekness dismantle self-reliance so Christ's likeness can be built.

2. What Meekness Is—and Is Not

- Working definition: power or strength placed wholly under God's authority.
- **Illustration:** handing a child a chainsaw to hammer a nail or a 10-pound sledge to hang a photo—having ability is useless without wisdom to match the task.
- Misconceptions:
 - Extreme pacifism/ “doormat” theology (only turning the other cheek).
 - Militant aggression that tramples people in the name of righteousness.
- True meekness lives between those errors but is actually higher than both, because it reflects Christ Himself.

3. Jesus—Perfect Picture of Meekness

Gentle with the weak

- Welcomed children (Matthew 19:14) and spoke kindly with the woman at the well and the woman caught in adultery.

Decisive with the corrupt

- Braided a whip, flipped tables, and drove merchants from the temple (John 2:13-17).

“Every instance is a picture of power and strength being wielded in perfect wisdom.”

Authority in teaching

- Taught “as one who had authority” (Matthew 7:29); the Greek *exousia* carries both power and right to rule.

Lamb before the shearers

- Physically strong carpenter yet chose not to resist arrest, flogging, and crucifixion—submitting to the Father's will.

Lion of final conquest

- At His return every knee will bow; He will judge the wicked and share His victory with co-heirs.

4. The Promise: “They Shall Inherit the Earth”

- Believers do not seize the earth; they receive it because Christ conquered and shares His prize.
- Meekness trains saints now for the stewardship they will hold then.

5. Everyday Arenas for Meekness

Home

- Choose kind words, patience, and self-restraint even when siblings break toys or neighbors rut the lawn.

Work & Neighborhood

- Address injustice or poor leadership firmly yet respectfully—strength that refuses to humiliate.

Church Gathering

- Bear with one another's immaturity, correct gently, and avoid domineering “truth-bombs.”

Defense & Force

- Meekness allows legitimate self-defense and protection of others (Romans 13) while rejecting vengeance.
- **Story:** discussion of crusades, combat medics, and Jesus' temple action used to show force can serve holiness when guided by love and wisdom.

6. Proclaiming the Gospel through Meekness

- Unprovoked kindness toward those who mock or harm us raises the question, “Why do you respond that way?” opening doors for the gospel.
- The cross itself is God's ultimate act of meekness: righteous wrath absorbed by the Son for sinners.

Key Truths

- Meekness is controlled strength, not the absence of strength.
- Jesus embodies perfect meekness as both Lamb who submits and Lion who conquers.
- The Spirit trains believers to apply power—physical, mental, relational—only in ways that serve God's plan.
- The meek inherit what Christ has already won; they do not fight for ownership but live as co-heirs.
- Everyday meekness displays the gospel, contrasting sharply with the world's rage or cowardice.

Response

- Submit every ability and advantage to the Lord's direction.

- Slow your reactions; seek the Spirit's wisdom before exerting power.
- Speak truth firmly yet respectfully, avoiding both passivity and bullying.
- Practice gentleness first at home, then carry it into work, school, and community.
- Defend the vulnerable when necessary, doing so with a righteous aim, not personal vengeance.

Closing

Meekness does not shrink back; it stands where Christ has already won and refuses to misuse the strength He provides. Whether facing insult, injustice, or open conflict, the kingdom citizen keeps power on God's leash, trusting the Father for timing and outcome. In the Lord's economy, that restrained strength is the very pathway to inheriting the earth.

Prayer

The speaker thanked God for Scripture's example of Christ's meekness, asked for the Spirit's help to use every kind of strength rightly, and prayed that the upcoming small-group study would challenge and grow participants so they “truly model that meekness to the world around us,” all in Jesus' name.