

STUDY QUESTIONS CONT'D

6. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?
7. How does the prodigal son parable in Luke 15:11–32 illustrate this?

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The Gospel, or good news, of Jesus Christ is that He did what no one could ever do. You see, God loves us, but ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God, every human being has sinned and therefore cannot come into God’s presence because He is holy and perfect. As much as we try, we cannot bridge the gap to God because of our sinful nature. We can never be good enough to reach God. Good works, religion, philosophy and morality all fall short of God’s perfection.

God loves us so much that He sent His Own Son, Jesus Christ, to bridge the gap (John 3:16). Jesus did what no one else could ever do, because He is both God and human, born to Mary. He took upon Himself the punishment we deserve, dying on the cross in our place. Now, through a relationship with Jesus Christ, we can come before a holy God. That is the good news! We enter a relationship with Jesus by placing our faith and trust in Him and Him alone for our salvation. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

The good news doesn’t end there. Not only can we have eternal life through Jesus, but we also now can live without being condemned because of sin. Jesus paid the price for our sins, and He lives within those who have placed their trust in Him. In Christ, not only have we secured our future in eternity with God, but we have the Holy Spirit living in us to help us today to live for Christ. For more information on how to know God, check our website at www.gbcmilescity.com.



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Small Group Study Guide
Pastor Jerry Coon – August 13, 2017

SERMON NOTES

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK

Matthew 5:5

Difference between being “poor in spirit” and being “meek” or ‘gentle’
“Poor in spirit” focuses on our sinfulness and “meekness” focuses on God’s holiness.

- 1) Def. “Meekness” means power under control.
Ill. - Of breaking of an animal – still has all its power yet now it is under control and is useful to its master. (Prov 16:32) “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city”
- 2) “Meekness is the opposite of violence and vengeance.
(Hebrews 10:34) “for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.”

The “meek” person has died to self and he does not worry about injury to himself or about loss, insult or abuse.
- 3) “Meekness” is not cowardice or emotional flabbiness. It’s courage, strength, conviction and its agreement comes from God, not from self. The spirit of meekness is the Spirit of Christ, who defended the glory of His Father, but gave Himself in sacrifice for others.
(1Pet 2:21-23)
- 4) Ill. of meekness: Abraham & Lot, Joseph, Jesus, Moses.
 - a) The result of meekness – Matt. 5:5
 - b) The necessity for meekness.

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SERMON NOTES

- 5) The meek receives God's own joy and gladness.
Theirs will be paradise regained. Our responsibility is to trust the Lord and obey His will. (1Cor. 6:9) The unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.
- 6) The importance of meekness:
 - a) It is required for salvation – “He crowns the humble with salvation” Ps. 149:4 NIV
 - b) It is commanded “seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth... seek righteousness.... seek humility”
 - c) Only meekness gives glory to God. Ro. 15:5-7

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 5:6

(Isa. 14:13-14) For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’

- 1) Satan hungered for power (to usurp God's power)
- 2) The rich fool (Lk. 12:13-21) hungered for pleasure
- 3) Nebuchadnezzar hungered for praise

The object is to honor, obey and glorify God by walking in God's righteousness. God tells us that the way to happiness, the way to being truly blessed is the way of spiritual hunger and thirst.

The heart of every person in the world was created with a sense of inner emptiness and need. Ones apart from God do not realize what their need is.

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SERMON NOTES

III. – Prodigal son

The hunger and thirst of which Jesus speaks is the strongest and deepest impulses in the natural realm, used to represent the depth of desire the call of God makes in the life of a believer in his pursuit for the righteousness of God.

To have a full life in Christ – not just bits and pieces of righteousness – the promise of a “filled life” is conditional, it is to have a hunger and thirst for the righteousness of Christ.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between being poor in spirit and being meek?
2. What are some common misunderstandings about meekness?
3. What does the phrase, “power under control,” have to do with being meek?
4. How was Jesus an example of being meek?
5. Why is having an attitude of meekness important for the believer?

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