

Title: ~~The~~ Bliss of the God-Controlled Life

Text: Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth."

This is a direct quotation from Psalms 37:11. In our modern day the word MEEK is not one of the most exciting characteristics to covet. Nowadays it carries with it the idea of spinelessness. We link the word "meek" with "little" and we say the "meek little man". And who wants to be a "meek little man". We sort of associate meekness with weakness.

But it so happens that the word "meek" (in Greek ~~PRUS?~~ <sup>PRAOTES</sup> ~~PRAS~~) carries not the idea of weakness but the idea of strength.

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4 Days The Greek word "~~PRUS~~" <sup>PRAOTES</sup> conveys out the false idea we have of weakness. In the Greek the word is referring to a person who is so gladdened and overcome by God's greatness that he counts his own life as nothing, but gladly gives it for love's sake. The Apostle John expressed this principle very clearly when he quoted Jesus as saying: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:12-13) This is not our idea of meekness. Meekness in the Greek has strength and character to it. Thus, the first possible translation of this beatitude is:

Blessed is the man who counts his own life as nothing, but gladly gives it for love's sake.

② But the moment I have said that, more needs to be explained. For this kind of love is beyond our ability. The person who has the kind of love which will lay down a life for another is a person who is GOD\*CONTROLLED. The Jews asserted their pride of race, The Romans their pride of power. the Greeks their pride of knowledge; but the MEEK are God-controlled and

*Be ye content in what  
ever state ye find yourself*

content to walk in the footprints of Jesus. In a world where our knowledge and control of the forces of nature may will at any time, because of some absurd and tragic ~~in~~ ~~pass~~, threaten the very extinction of human life, genuine meekness( ~~humble~~ that is, being lead ~~by~~ the Spirit) becomes a great stabilising force in ones life.

So the second possible translation of this beatitude is:

Blessed is the man who counts his own life as nothing, but galdly gives it for love's sake, because he himself is God-controlled.

3. But there is still a third possible side from which we may approach this beatitude. The Greeks used this word "~~praus~~" "PRAOTES" to convey the idea of Humility. The kind of humility which banishes all pride.

For example: without humility a person cannot learn, for the first step to learning is the realisation of ones own ignorance. No one can teach ~~the~~ person who knows it all. OR Take love for example. Without humility there can be no such thing as love, for the very beginning of love is a sense of ~~un~~ worthiness.

And so it is with faith. Without humility there can be no true faith, for ~~the~~ true faith begins with a sense and a realisation of our own weakness and of our need for God. A person can reach the depth of understand life when he comes to the realization that without God he can do nothing. *Paul says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

~~praus~~/MEEKNESS(PRAOTES) describes the humility, the acceptance of the need to learn and of the need to be forgiven. Meekness describes our only possible attitude towards God. So, then, the ~~third~~ <sup>complete</sup> third possible translation of this beatitude is:

Blessed is the man who counts his own life as nothing, but galdly gives it for love's sake, because he himself is God-controlled, who has the humility to relaise his own ignorance and his own weakness, and his own need.

4. *The man with this* It is ~~this~~ kind of meekness, ~~it~~ which Jesus says will inherit the earth. It is a fact of history that it has always been ~~the~~ the person with this ~~ability~~ ability to count his own life as nothing, who gives for love's sake, the man who is God-controlled who have learn the secrets of happiness. *What does it mean to inherit the earth - it means to be saved -*

MOSES - We read in Numbers 12:3: "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all men which were upon the face of the earth." Moses was no milk and water character; he was no spineless creature; he was a leader of men; a man who loved God and realized that true wisdom comes from God.

The writer of PROVERBS PUTS IT: "He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city (Prov. 16:2) It was the lack of that very quality which ruined Alexander the Great, who, in a fit of temper hurled a spear at his best friend and killed him. No man can lead other until he has mastered himself; no man can serve others until he learns humility. But the man who give himself into the complete control of God will gain this meekness which will indeed enable him to inherit the earth.

It is clear that his word *with weakness as Meekness* PRAOTES means far more than the English work MEEK now means; It should be clear that there is no one English word which will translate it. The full translation of this thrid beatitude must read:

O THE BLISS OF THE MAN WHO COUNTS HIS OWN LIFE AS NOTHING, BUT GADLY GIVES IT FOR LOVE'S SAKE, BECAUSE HE HIMSELF IS GOD\*CONTROLLED, WHON HAS THE HUMITLITY TO REALIZE HIS OWN IGNORANCE AND HIS OWN WEAKNESS, FOR SUCH A MAN IS KING AMONG MEN.