



"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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"THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH"

The long, yet beautiful "sermon on the mount" of Matthew 5 - 7 begins with what we often speak of as The Beatitudes or Blessings (Matt. 5:3-12).

Each designation and its favorable consequence brings understanding and comfort to the righteous. But a clearer understanding is often requested about verse 5, *"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."*

Jesus quotes what a thousand years earlier had been written in five verses of Psalms 37 (9, 11, 22, 29, 34), *"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."* What a beautiful meaning is

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141 County Road 474

Woodland, AL 36280

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conveyed by this thought.

Contrary to what might seem to be suggested, we shall see that inheriting physical things of this world is not in the least under consideration: not lands, not money, not position or social status.

Something far greater and more to be desired is intended. The key to understanding is found in 1 Timothy 6:3-6:

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain.

1 Timothy 4:8 adds to this understanding, “Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”

Being meek does not imply that one is weak or that he will submit to being continually abused. He is not hard-headed or hard-hearted. To the contrary it describes one who has the strength and patience which is inherent in self-control.

He has the tendency to listen, to learn, and to correct his ways, to be patient, to avoid conflicts which offer no advantage, to keep his “cool” when others lose theirs, and to seek a calm resolution. He is inclined to have a pleasant, quiet, unruffled disposition. He is not inclined to lose his temper when others do. He can accept criticism and consider it to his advantage to learn of his faults. He will “weather the storm” rather than become its victim.

Fortified with these characteristics, the meek are assured of a victory in every conflict. He might not win in a material sense, but he will emerge with a determination to rise above his difficulty. He can see beyond those barriers which hinder his physical line

of sight. He can endure with faith and hope when others will have fallen by the way-side in defeat.

In this sense the meek will receive and enjoy blessings far beyond those this present world has to offer. He will enjoy more fully the blessings he receives from the Lord and will recognize their Source. He cannot be bought and he cannot be influenced by flattery. But he receives insight, understanding, and a recognition of worth which the world does not value nor begin to understand.

They place their treasure in earthly, material, temporary things - but he inherits every worthwhile quality that even the richest of this world cannot purchase or ever attain.

In this sense he shall “inherit the earth.” No man is richer or has greater promise than he, for his treasures can be enjoyed while yet here on the earth and then go on to be enjoyed in eternity.

Consider some ideal biblical examples which should inspire us to follow in their steps.

When “*Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married*” (Numbers 12:1). “*Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth*” (3). Meek, but what a powerful leader through whom God was pleased to use.

Caleb and Joshua were the only two elders who lived to enter the promised land. Joshua was chosen by God to replace Moses as the leader of Israel (Numbers 27:18-23). Caleb never displayed jealousy or resentment. Nor should we when our time comes to be passed-over.

In Acts 1:15-26 when Peter initiated the action, as foretold in Psalms 109:8, to replace Judas, both Justus and Matthias were elected as possible candidates. After calling upon the Lord to make the selection, Matthias was chosen by lot. We never find where Justus rebelled or felt rejected. He received with meekness the Lord's decision.

In our walk among others, let us seek to follow the path of meekness: Not seeking our own will at the expense of others. To insist on having our own way is childish. Not being too critical before patient and proper investigation. Being patient before being rash or rude! Holding our composure and sense of wisdom even when others do not respect our wishes.

In Matthew 20 two of Jesus' disciples mother requested that they be placed on His right and left sides in His kingdom. Jesus replied, *“Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.”* (Matt. 20:26-27)

Before becoming too critical, consider this good advice from Paul, *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.”* (Gal. 6:1)

Consider this example: One day a large crowd gathered at Union Station in Chicago to meet a Nobel Prize winner who was arriving. He stepped from the train, thanked the crowd for coming, and then ran to help an elderly women who was carrying two heavy suitcases. The famous missionary doctor picked up her bags, took her to the bus, and helped her aboard. Dr. Albert Schweitzer apologized to the crowd for delaying them. But a reporter said, “This is the first time I ever saw a sermon walking.”

By the sermon others see in us as we walk among them, can they clearly see the Jesus Whose hand we hold?

HARRY COBB
(Deceased)

APOLOGIA

Baptism is a subject that rarely gets preached about in church and that may explain why today there are so many different ideas and misconceptions about it. It is a topic so basic to Christianity, one

of the first principles of the Gospel of Christ, that we tend to overlook it. In this study, we will attend to some common questions concerning baptism.

QUESTION: What is the scriptural mode for baptism: sprinkling, pouring, or immersion?

ANSWER: Some people bring up Ezekiel 36:25: *“Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.”* Ezekiel here is referring to erring/unclean Israel. However, New Testament teachings are more relevant to Christianity. Baptism requires much water (John 3:23) and is like a burial (Rom. 6:4, Col. 2:12). The Greek *baptizo* that we translate into “baptism” means to dip, plunge, immerse. Considering this, every New Testament example of baptism is immersion!

QUESTION: Does the “water” actually save and wash away sins? Is water baptism that significant?

ANSWER: “Water” does not actually wash away sins. The blood of Christ does. *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:7)

We gain access to Christ’s blood when baptism occurs.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
(Rom. 6:3-5)

Note that baptism signifies a death, burial, and resurrection like Christ. In a sense, water baptism does save us. (Acts 8:36; 10:47) But 1 Peter 3:21, *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth*

also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:” explains that the literal water does not save us, but obedience to God’s command. In other words, there is nothing magical or sacred in the water.

QUESTION: How is a person’s state and relationship changed with Christ after baptism?

ANSWER: One is OUT of Christ before baptism and cannot be saved. He is baptized INTO Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). It is then very easy to see the importance of baptism. However we are not saved by baptism only, nor faith only. *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone”* (Jas. 2:17). *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”* (Eph. 2:8-9). Rather we are saved by the union of faith (belief) and work (baptism). *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mar. 16:16)

QUESTION: Are terrible sins committed before baptism forgiven? Do we still have to answer to God for those later?

ANSWER: Those who obey the Gospel will have sins forgiven, blotted out, and will never have to face them again. (Rom. 6:4,7,14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17) For example, Peter preached to Jews who crucified Christ in Acts 2:36-38:

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this,

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The Harvester

141 County Road 474 * Woodland, AL 36280

Phone: (256) 449-9221* Email: raymcmanus@hotmail.com

Web Page: www.churches-of-christ.org

they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Could our sins be much worse than killing Jesus? Don't let the sins of your past cripple your life for Christ. You can't change the past but you can resolve to do right today!

QUESTION: What about sins committed after baptism? Should a person be baptized again?

ANSWER: Only the blood of Christ can remiss or wash away sins (Rev. 1:5). After baptism, if we walk in light, we remain in contact with that blood (1 John 1:7). We will be forgiven when we repent.

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. (Luke 17:3-4)

Prayer can also help as evidenced by Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:12, 13, 22) and as in James 5:16: "*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*"

Based on a sermon by RAY MCMANUS
(Deceased)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Three of David's mighty men risked their lives against the Philistines to get him a drink of water from where?
2. What was the new name given to Daniel while in captivity?

Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
January 15 - 17	Willow Oak Russell Springs, KY	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
January 29 - 31	Verona Verona, KY	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
February 5 - 7	Taylor's Cross Roads Roanoke, AL	J.D. Nash Southside, AL

3. Which Old Testament prophet was given a book to eat by God?
4. Which disciple asked Jesus to show them the Father?
5. Where did Paul leave the sick Trophimus?

...and remember last month's questions?

1. What city did Lot live in that was destroyed by fire and brimstone? SODOM (Genesis 19:1, 24)
2. What were the names of Joseph's two sons? EPHRAIM AND MANASSEH (Genesis 48:1)
3. Who convinced King Zedekiah to take Jeremiah out of the dungeon? EBED-MELECH THE ETHIOPIAN (Jeremiah 38:7-13)
4. Which king did Paul "almost" persuade to be a Christian? KING AGRIPPA (Acts 26:27-28)
5. According to Ephesians, what piece of the armor of God is righteousness? BREASTPLATE (Ephesians 6:14)