



Meekness Gets You Much

“The earth is the Lord’s and all it contains . . .” Psalm 24:1. Jesus has Psalm 24:1 in mind as He sets forth his third beatitude where the meek (gentle) are promised a “piece of the rock.” The “earth” is promised as an inheritance which is a very familiar Old Testament idea for those chosen by God. Psalm 37 uses this phrase multiple times with qualifying conditions. Psalm 37:9 says you must “wait upon the Lord” before the inheritance becomes yours. Verse 11 states the importance of “humility.” Verse 22 makes it clear that to be “blessed” by Jehovah gets you something while being “cursed” will “cut you off” or cut you out of any portion of the land. Verse 29 clearly sets forth the benefit of “righteousness” which is a moral quality based on God’s nature. Then, verse 34 comes back to “waiting in the Lord” and “walking in His ways’ – not man’s ways.

Paul uses Psalm 24:1 in I Corinthians 10:25, 26 to support his argument that God has created all things for our use, appreciation and pleasure. In Matthew 5:5, Jesus does not deal with God as Creator – it’s an assumption based on His experience of Genesis 1:1. Since all things are created by and through Christ (Col 1:15,16), He has the freedom to promise it to all the “poor in spirit”, all who “mourn” over their sin and all who are “meek.” Along with inheriting the stuff of creation comes “self control” and “do all to the glory of God.” That is neither ascetism nor hedonism. It’s all given for our enjoyment and good with divine limits.

To “inherit” is to get something based on birthright. Something we don’t deserve, earn or expect. The “meek” gain the created universe in that having a relationship with the Creator and being joint-heirs with Jesus, our appreciation and pleasure of creation is enhanced and exalted. The works of His hands is indeed something to observe and marvel over. Sin distracts and depreciates our affections for everything that God has created – oak trees, rivers, animals and people, etc. An intimate relationship with the Creator through Christ the co-Creator enlarges our appreciation, and pleasure toward our inheritance – “earth”. This thought should cause all of us to “rule over” and “care for” the earth with reverence. The “meek” have been given something very valuable and we need to treat it as such.

I don’t know why Jesus connected meekness with inheriting the earth. Why not love, faithfulness or even diligence? But, what I do know is that meekness is a required virtue of God’s chosen people. In Colossians 3:12 we read, “Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;” As a chosen one of God we must display meekness and delight in our inheritance making good use of the earth and protecting its bounties. Those who inherit will care for and protect the thing given. Pollution and reckless use should not be named amongst us. We don’t “hug trees” or worship creation rather than the Creator, but we do, with awe and joy cherish our inheritance.

Redemption opens our eyes to see the full beauty of the Creator and the awesome works of His hands. Whether in a new born baby, Mt. Everest, Grand Canyon or the bugle of an elk in the fall. “When I consider the works of Thy hands – I muse – who is man that Thou are mindful of him,” Psalm 8:3,4.

Remember, “Meekness gets you Much.”

Blessed are the gentle², for they shall inherit the earth. Matthew 5:5 NASB

² or humble, meek



I've attended the Annual Conference of the Christian Counseling Education Foundation (CCEF) since 2003 with various of my family members. The goal of CCEF is to Restore Christ to Counseling and Counseling to the Church.

Some of the themes over the years have been:
 Redeeming Anger: in a world gone mad
 Running Scared: Fear, Worry, and the God of Rest
 Radical Change: for a Radical Culture
 Relationships: A Mess Worth Making
 The Addict in us ALL

The conference title this year was

ONE: for better or worse...a look at marriage.

This conference addressed many of the obvious issues (communication, conflict and intimacy just to name a few), however the goal of this conference was intended to be so much more.

We were called to see with a much bigger vision of marriage both for your own marriage and the marriages of those to whom God has called us to minister to.

To see, marriage as a big thing in the Bible. It's a big thing because it is about things bigger than marriage itself. There is something about biblical marriage that is wrapped up with the very heart of the relationship between God and his people. Nowhere is that more clear than in Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

During this year's general sessions we walked through this entire epistle. So often, the tendency is to jump right to the section on husbands and wives in chapter 5. But if we do that, we miss the bigger context in which these verses find their life and meaning. We discovered together that marriage is a call unto God and unto one another. We learned to love as one and even fight as one. We explored the calling to be husband and wife in union with Christ within the body of Christ.

Some of my personal 'take homes' are from the session out of Ephesians 3:14-21 by Tim Lane I heard a clear call to keep my relationships God centered. There are many voices out there calling out for marriages to become any of the following.... *me* centered, *spouse* centered, *couple* centered, or *child* centered. It is only when I am *God centered* and keep my relationships in the context of the Trinity and community that I can flourish.

The word picture given to help us grasp this was of a massive sea creature, a whale (my relationship, myself). It is absolutely breathtaking to observe its habits as it is moving through the vast ocean (the length, breadth, height, width of God's unfathomable love) yet when it is beached and out of its realm it is stripped of its majesty and wonder! Our relationships need the whole people of God and the whole love of God to be all God intended.

from the session out of Ephesians 4:1-16 by Mike Emler 7 X unity is mentioned! We are called to maintain it, live increasingly into it, become what you are in Christ. Never underestimate the length, depth, breadth of the love of God and Christ.

Be forewarned. What imagination does to reality is the reality we live by. 7X the word mystery is mentioned. Unity is a mystery. Unity is diversity. Unity with maturity is our goal. Unity in the church. When we embrace unity as our reality we are in line to fight the real enemy! Satan, not each other. Am I willing to die to self for unity? Christ did. Ouch!

from the Mini Course: Keeping Marriage Counseling on track out of Ephesians 5:1,2 by Winston Smith.

1. Know the track. There are two rails the train of our relationships must run on. Worship and Love in the details. Ephesians does not let us choose between spiritual or practical. We need both or we will be derailed. When either one gets out of line there is sure trouble.

2. Build love into the structure of counseling. Keep the train on track. Establish basic communication rules and keep them.

3. Get beneath the events to heart issue, patterns and motives. Most often there is one issue in 1000 arguments. Resist the temptation to 'do' and 'redo' events. Use 'events' to guide the discussion into the realm of the heart.

4. Value the ways emotions reveal and create connection. Psalm 55 is an example. When I look at Christ, I see me better. The Scriptures do not resent emotions like I do or may want to. God uses emotional imaging when He tells me of His care/love for me. Emotions are the currency of personal investment. Embrace their presence and glean insights for real understanding.

5. Create new experiences of love and grace. Keep *both* sets of wheels on *both* rails.

6. Finally remember, Some things can't be fixed. Christ heals these!

For more information about the Christian Counseling Education Foundation (CCEF) go to www.ccef.org



While many others were cozily awaiting, or busily preparing the Thanksgiving Turkey, a few ambitious ones among us were participating in the **TURKEY BOWL**,

which is both a 1 mile run for kids and a 5K Run for all, benefiting Tel Hai Camp.

A GOBBLE! GOBBLE! to the runners!

Donna McKim, Martha Ranck, Marla Ranck
not pictured The Ed Waldron Family.

At this point in the conference I touched base with Paul at home and attempted to say in a moment what I was experiencing. "Sweetie, we just finished up a 3 hour mini course on Marriage Counseling. Wow, was it good. Hopefully I've learned new techniques so that when I find myself counseling my own marriage it will be much more God centered and not me centered. And we smiled out loud as the realization dawned on me. There will be a very real struggle to take what I've learned and apply it to real life living. Ask him in a couple months or years and see if he's benefited from anything I've applied yet! Oh, God help me.

from the session containing the actual marriage command in Ephesians 5:22-33 by David Powlinson
The word count here reveals that it is not so much about marriage as it is the Church. 1/3 of the words are about marriage. 2/3 of the words speak about the church.
Resist the temptation to reduce this passage a discussion about specific behaviors and actions for men and women. God did not make us as cookies all cut with the same cutter. He didn't even make all men from the same cutter or all women from the same cutter. He makes snowflakes, intricate and individual. This passage is a clear call to live with your snowflake of a spouse in submission and love. period. Stay in the sea- vast and untamed, where you are rarely seen, to thrive. Don't allow yourself to beach yourself. Keep your whale in the ocean and let it WOW the watching world.

and in the closing session by Ed Welch. The closing verses of Ephesians command us to do battle. Fight. Win. It is only when we use His armor that we can even dream of victory! After all the promises, quiet words, we come abruptly upon a battle to be fought and won. I found this call to be so significant when I saw it in the context of the previous relationship laden chapters of Ephesians.

In the words of Ephesians, I came away from this conference "equip(ped) for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."...beginning with me.

shared by Twila Ranck by request as a Learning Report in the Sunday service November 28, 2010.

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God's Garden

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Photo by: Catherine Ranck

"Things to be Thankful for"

Be thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug,
because it means you have enough to eat.

Be thankful for the mess you clean up after a party,
because it means you have been surrounded by friends.

Be thankful for the taxes you pay,
because it means that you're employed.

Be thankful that your lawn needs mowing
and your windows needs fixing,
because it means you have a home.

Be thankful for your heating bill,
because it means you are warm.

Be thankful for the laundry,
because it means you have clothes to wear.

Be thankful for the space
you find at the far end of the parking lot,
Because it means you can walk.

Be thankful for the lady who sings
off-key behind you in church,
because it means you can hear.

Be thankful people complain about the government,
because it means we have freedom of speech.

Be thankful for the alarm
that goes off in the early morning hours,
because it means you're alive.

Author Unknown

May we allow the Spirit to fill in these blanks
with specific words of thankfulness
out of our individual circumstances.

Be thankful for _____
because it means _____.