

The Gentle

Matthew 5:5

I. What Is the Meaning of Gentleness?

A. What Jesus Did Not Mean

1. A lack of conviction or cowardice
2. The pursuit of peace at any cost
3. A weak character
4. A shy or introverted personality
5. Mere human niceness

B. What Jesus Meant

1. Humble in heart
2. Submissive to God & human authorities
3. Gentle to all

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- I. What is the Meaning of Gentleness?
- II. What are the Expressions of Gentleness?
 - A. Toward God: It's Submission
 - 1. To His Will (1 Sam. 3:18; Ps. 37:7-11)
 - 2. To His Word (Jam. 1:21)
 - B. Toward Others: It's a Humble, Gracious, Gentle Spirit
 - 1. Toward believers generally (Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12)
 - 2. Toward believers who've sinned (Gal. 6:1)
 - 3. Toward unbelievers (2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 3:2; 1 Pet. 3:16)

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III. What Is Jesus' Promise to the Gentle?

A. They Are Blessed

1. They belong to His spiritual kingdom.
2. They are inwardly happy and joyful.
3. Their circumstances and happiness are the result of God's unique favor and grace.

B. They Will Inherit the Earth

1. The Historical Land of Israel?
2. The Future New Earth!

Applying this Beatitude

1. It's a test of whether you're in Jesus' spiritual kingdom.
2. It's a call to cultivate and grow in this virtue.
 - Ask the Spirit to increase this quality in your life.
 - Live daily in the awareness of your spiritual poverty.
 - Regularly mourn over your sin.
 - Contemplate the perfect way Jesus displayed this virtue.
 - Develop a deep trust in God's sovereign power.
3. It's a reminder of why we desperately need the gospel.