

March 31, 2021

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

Inheritance is an idea as old as time and can be found in a variety of forms throughout ancient and contemporary societies. Many utilized a patrilineal inheritance, meaning that wealth and property passed along the male line, from father to son, though there are some exceptions found in African and South American cultures that followed females lines. Most modern inheritance practices utilize an egalitarian model, meaning that gender does not play a role in whether or not one inherits.

Inheritance has one common factor. It is received after someone dies. When Jesus spoke of inheriting the earth, His words foretold the great sacrifice of His death that would take place on Calvary.

It's easy to get caught up in the qualities Jesus references when reading The Beatitudes--meek, pure in heart, merciful, peacemakers—and focus on adopting those behaviors that would seemingly qualify one for inheritance. But what about the poor in spirit? Should I strive to become depressed? What about those that mourn? Is sorrow and loss something I should seek? These two qualities reflect the suffering of humanity in a world ruled by darkness (Ephesians 6:12). Jesus was saying to the people of His day to hold on! A better day is coming and you will be comforted, you will inherit the earth, receive mercy, and see God.

The fact that being poor in spirit and mourning are blessed characteristics according to Jesus, demonstrate that these characteristics are not the inheritance. Jesus promises something even better than the best characteristics described in the beatitudes. He promises an inheritance of eternal life which he obtained through the laying down of his life.

*For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive **the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom** to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant. Hebrews 9:15*

This is the second day that I planned to write about the quality of meekness, but each time I tried to write about developing that quality, I was blinded by the glorious love and grace of Jesus. It's His sacrifice that matters! It's His sacrifice that saves! We are able to receive eternal life only because Jesus died to ensure that inheritance. It is that truth that drives our relationship with Him, and it is that truth that has the power to change our hearts.

And, "I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." 2 Corinthians 6:18.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. Psalm 16:6