

## **Beatitudes 2... Sermon on the Mount**

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

Psalm 37:10-11 (p. 875)

Describe what it means to you to be meek.

How does the world tend to treat people who are meek? Do they have power?

“This community of strangers possesses no inherent right of its own to protect its members in the world, nor do they claim such rights, for they are meek, they renounce every right of their own and live for the sake of Jesus Christ. When reproached, they hold their peace; when treated with violence they endure it patiently; when men drive them from their presence, they yield their ground. They will not go to law to defend their rights, or make a scene when they suffer injustice, nor do they insist on their legal rights. They are determined to leave their rights to God alone.” – *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Humble – Numbers 12:3 (p. 226) (KJV, ESV substitute “meek” for humble)

Concerning Hobbits

“The meek do not mind being weak, for their strength is entirely in God.” – *Martin Luther*

“God chose what was weak in the world to shame the strong.” – *Paul*

What is the reward for meekness?

Who will inherit? Individual lots for individual meek persons? Or a group?

“To these, the powerless and the disenfranchised, the very earth belongs. Those who now possess it by violence and injustice shall lose it, and those who here have utterly renounced it, who were meek to the point of the cross, shall rule the new earth... What it means is that when the kingdom of heaven descends, the face of the earth will be renewed, and it will belong to the flock of Jesus.” – *Bonhoeffer*

Will inheritance change the meek?

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

In Jesus' day (and ours) hunger and thirst is an ever present reality.  
When do we experience hunger and thirst?

Madison Avenue advertising firms create needs we didn't know existed.  
Telephones > Cell phones > Smart phones  
Sweat stains? You need antiperspirant  
Televisions  
Pumpkin spice

If we have so many choices nowadays, why are so many people dissatisfied?

What is righteousness? Why do we need it? Isn't there a substitute?

In the Old Testament righteousness "is not a matter of actions conforming to a given set of absolute legal standards, but behavior which is in keeping with the two-way relationship [the covenant] between God and man."

*New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*

"We can enter (righteousness) only by accepting God as Lord and trusting him to restore and uphold it." *Paul Achtemeier*

What does it mean to "hunger and thirst for righteousness?"

"Not only do the followers of Jesus renounce their rights, they renounce their own righteousness too. They get no praise for their achievements or sacrifices. They cannot have righteousness except by hungering and thirsting for it ... always they look forward to the future righteousness of God, but they cannot establish it for themselves." – *Bonhoeffer*

Are those blessed under this beatitude those who are already righteous?

Ultimately what we hunger and thirst for is Jesus.