

Why Be a Protégé of Jesus:

*Lesson 6a: Because he taught as one with authority, not as their teachers of the law."
(Matthew 7: 29, NIV)*

Beatitudes 1,2,3

Overview:

In this lesson, we consider the Beatitudes and the rest of the Sermon on the Mount to constitute Jesus' New World Order, his preferred vision of the ideal life in the Kingdom of God, now and in eternity, made possible because of his sacrifice and resurrection.

We include a discussion of each of the Beatitudes in Matthew Chapter 5 and cover Chapters 6 and 7, not for participants to do all the activities but for you to pick the section you want to focus on. Read this overview and as much of the text/videos as possible. Then select one area (I, II, III, or IV) to study more closely and complete the associated Activities, Assessment, and Call to Action.

People have been trying to start a "new world order" since there was a world. The first time would be in the 11th chapter of Genesis. After the flood, God told Noah and his children to multiply and fill the earth, but the people who came to a place called Shinar decided to stay in one place, build an ancient world's version of a skyscraper, and "make a name" for themselves (read verses 6 - 8 if you want to see how God put a stop to that). In another era in ancient Biblical times, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, created his new world order when his armies conquered the world.

The Roman Empire under the Caesars, the French General Napoleon, and Adolf Hitler were all examples of people who wanted to change the world – to their advantage. And now, many people assert that the World Order is a group of wealthy, essential but mostly unknown people planning the world for the rest of us (to the advantage of the rich and powerful).

But whatever anyone says the new world order is or isn't, Jesus was different. He didn't come for his own sake but for ours. His New World Order was all about living another way.

Part I: The Beatitudes

What Does the Bible Say?

Read: Matthew, Chapter 5: 3-15

Beatitude:

- 1) Supreme blessedness,
- 2) The blessings listed by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (online dictionary)

Blessed (*adjective*):

- 1) Holy
- 2) Bringing happiness or comfort (Cambridge Dictionary)

Watch one or both overview videos about the Beatitudes from:

[Drive Through History](#)

[What is the Significance of the Beatitudes?](#)

Jesus said that people who live this way, his protégés, can find real happiness and the kingdom of heaven will belong to them. But what Jesus said about how to live is totally different from what his Jewish audience expected to hear from someone who they thought would lead them to war and kick the Roman out of their country. Even today, many people, who think the Beatitudes sound good on the surface, might not want to live the way Jesus prescribes. But Jesus wasn't telling people how to live to just get by.

He was telling them how to be radically different from the rest of the world. As a

result, they would be happy in his kingdom—the kingdom of heaven (also called the kingdom of God)—the "realm" where Jesus is in charge. For now, that realm is in the hearts and lives of those who love and follow Jesus. When Jesus returns, he will set up his kingdom in real time throughout the entire world

Let's look again at a video we saw before. This time pay close attention to what Tim and Jon say about the kingdom of God being an "upside down" kingdom. [The Kingdom of God](#)

What Does this Mean?

Understanding the Beatitudes is important to understanding why Jesus' Kingdom seems upside down, but it's right-side up, and the way of the world is what's turned over and backwards. If we as protégés are going to live the life that Jesus means us to live – to prosper in the right way while we are alive on earth, resist the lust of the flesh, and eyes, and the pride of life, and rule and reign when we are alive with him in heaven, we have to do some things the opposite of those who do not choose to be followers of Jesus.

Beatitude 1: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

A. What do you think of when you think of being poor? What are your thoughts about being "poor in spirit"?

1) Do you think a person can be well off in terms of money but still be poor in spirit?

B. Read or listen to this parable below that Jesus told and watch the following that tell the same basic story.

"Jesus also told this parable to people who were sure of their own goodness and despised everybody else. ¹⁰ *"Once there were two men who went up to the Temple to pray: one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood apart by himself and prayed, 'I thank you, God, that I am not greedy, dishonest, or an adulterer, like everybody else. I thank you that I am not like that tax collector over there. ¹² I fast two days a week, and I give you one tenth of all my income. ' ¹³ But the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat on his breast and said, 'God, have pity on me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you," said Jesus, "the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was in the right with God when he went home. For those who make themselves great will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be made great." (Luke 18: 9-14 GNT). [Saddleback Kids](#)*

1) Which one was poor in spirit? (Remember, both Pharisees and publicans (tax collectors), in Jesus' time tended to be quite wealthy).

2) Which one left the temple right with God? Why?

3) Why would Jesus say that rich or poor, being poor in spirit is a good thing?

a) What is it about people who are "poor in spirit" that impresses Jesus, compared to people who may really be "all that" but play themselves up and put other people down?

Beatitude 2: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

A. What comes to mind when you think about someone being mournful?

1) Have you ever been to a funeral? How did it feel when you and/or your family and friends mourned over someone who died?

2) What reasons, other than a death, would someone mourn?

Think or write a list of things that people mourn over (Hint: we tend to mourn over things that we've lost or things we're sorry about, including our own wrongdoing)

B. So what can mourning have to do with being happy and blessed?

Suggested video: Gives us a Bible teacher's perspective on this beatitude: [What Does Blessed Are The Those Who Morn Mean?](#)

1) Even though Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God, he mourned when he lived here on earth. He mourned when people were unjust and uncaring towards others, when people died, when people kept doing wrong on purpose, and maybe even other times that the Bible doesn't mention. So, he knows how we feel when we **mourn**. Protégés who know Jesus and have his Holy Spirit in us will **be** sad sometimes. But deep inside our hearts, underneath the sorrow will **still** be happiness that we can feel even when we're going through an awful time.

C. Look at the following stories about times when Jesus mourned or was seriously saddened or troubled:

1) Luke 7: 11-17; 2) John 2: 14-16; 3) John 7:53-8:11; 4) Luke 19: 41-44; 5) John 11, especially vs 32-36

a) What did Jesus seem to be feeling in these situations?

b) What does it tell us about how Jesus feels when we are mourning and sad or even angry when something bad has happened?

c) How does Jesus' response help us when we are sorrowful or mourning about something we've done wrong?

d) How does Jesus' response help us to comfort others when they are mourning?

Beatitude 3: *Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth.*

Meek (*adjective*): 1) enduring injury with patience and without resentment 2: deficient in spirit and courage.

Inherit (*verb*): 1) To take or receive (property, a right, a title, etc.) by succession or will, as an heir. 2) To receive as if by succession from predecessors.

A. This time, the definition for *meek* is not totally correct for protégés. The first definition works, but not the second. Meekness in the Bible does not mean deficient, or other synonyms like weak, timid, or docile. Let's see why that is, and what meekness looks like for a protégé.

1) In the Old Testament, Numbers 12: 3 says, "Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth." (KJV). But this was the same Moses

who stood up to Pharaoh, the most powerful king in the world at the time and led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Later, Moses went up into the mountain and received the Ten Commandment stones from God himself. He also, with the help of his protégé Joshua, took down evil people among the Israelites and went to battle against an enemy. Moses was a powerful man, but he put himself under God's control so he could be the leader God called him to be.

2) The Old Testament prophet, Zephaniah speaks to, "the humble (or meek)," the ones "who do what he commands," (Zephaniah 2:3, NIV). Another translation (NKJV) says, "who have upheld his justice, seek righteousness, seek humility." But as we see even today, it's usually the most courageous people who "uphold justice" in the face of chaos and injustice.

3) In Matthew 11:29, Jesus calls himself meek (or humble). But Jesus also flipped over the tables of people who were running a market on the Temple grounds because they were blocking people from worshiping God and cheating them as well. He called the teachers of the law hypocrites to their faces and had the strength and courage to be beaten and executed on a cross, not for his wrongdoing, but for all of ours.

B. Another way to look at meekness is not powerlessness but keeping your power under supreme control. Watched the following videos on meekness: [Blessed Are Th Meek](#)

1) Why is it so hard to believe that the meek really will get everything?

2) Does knowing that Jesus is Lord and in control make that easier to believe the meek will inherit the earth? How?

C. The word *meek* may not be the best translation for the actual biblical word in the Old Testament, *anawah*, and in the New Testament, *praótēs* and/or *praus*.^{*} *Praótēs* is closer to being, "temperate, displaying the right blend of force and reserve (gentleness)." ¹¹ ^{*}Strong's 4240, same root word as Strong's 4236

More suggested videos with slightly different takes on meekness. Select and watch at least two of the following:

What Does ["Blessed Are the Meek Mean?"](#) Bible Study Tools

What Does ["The Meek Will Inherit the Earth Mean?" \(Matthew 5:5\)](#) Bible Study Tools

What Does ["The Meek Will Inherit the Earth Mean?" \(Matthew 5:5\)](#) By Joe Pallikkathayil

[Who Arer the Meek](#) by Alan Horvath

[Blessed Are the Meek by Steve Uppal Fuel Daily](#)

- 1) Based on the video(s) you watched, what would be a good synonym or phrase for meekness as the Bible teaches it?
- 2) Pick something that was said that really stood out to you. How can you, as Jesus' protégé, apply that to what your everyday life?

D. What else did Jesus want us to know about the meek inheriting the earth? Bible scholars point out that Jesus' took a lot of his teaching out of the Old Testament, the Bible that the Jewish people knew at that time (his first protégés hadn't written the New Testament yet!)

Take a few minutes to read or listen to The Message paraphrase or the New Living Translation:

[The Message Bible: Psalm 37](#)

[He Is Living Translation: Psalms 37](#)

- 1) Look again at the first definition of *meek*. How does it apply to Psalm 37?
- 2) What does Jesus want his protégés to remember when it seems like the evil people are winning?
- 3) Pick a verse from Psalm 37 that will help you remember why it pays to be meek.

E. God the Father gave *Dunamis* (power) to Jesus and to us so we can live out our God-given purpose.

- 1) Consider all the different ways this word for *power* is used in the New Testament:

Dunamis: (*noun*): strength, power, ability. (Note it's where we get the word *dynamite*.) **inherent power; power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth**; power for performing miracles; moral power and excellence of soul; the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth; power and resources arising from numbers; power consisting of in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts¹²

Compare the verses you chose to the types of power listed above. How do they apply to Jesus or, with the Holy Spirit's help, to us, his disciples/protégés?

Mark 5:28-30; Ephesians 3:14-16; Mathew 13:54; Revelation 5:12; 2 Corinthians 8:3; Revelation 3:8; Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 24:29-30; Ephesians 1:18-19

- 2) When Jesus was on earth, he accessed the infinite *Dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit to heal people, stand up to injustice, and ultimately, rise from the dead.

3) When we are gentle, humble, and keep our power under control, we don't envy people who consistently and persistently practice evil, even if they look like they're on top of the world. God is laughing at them because he knows their day is coming if they don't repent. We save our power for more important things than getting mad at somebody, getting back at people who wronged us, or even that driver in front of us who just doesn't seem to know that the speed limit is more than 15 mph.

Moses was a powerful man, but he put himself under God's control so he could be the leader God called him to be. Jesus, when he was on earth, accessed the infinite Dunamis power of the Holy Spirit to heal people, stand up to injustice, and ultimately, rise from the dead. So, remember Romans 8:11 -

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. (NLT).

If you are a true protégé or disciple of Jesus, you have the power! – Be meek!

Watch this heartwarming video entitled the ["Bee Happy"](#) from *Frown Busters*.