

Southwest Life Groups

A Place to Belong...A Place to Transform

March 28th, 2020

Focus: To engage the upside down notion that meekness trumps power.

The Beatitudes *Blessed are the Meek -Lesson 3*

Introduction: Attached is a story to begin tonight's conversation.

- Read the story and discuss.
- Discuss the word success as defined by our culture.
- Discuss the merits of climbing the corporate ladder.
- Describe your thoughts on how our culture feels about what's important in life.
- Compare and contrast our lives as Christians with the cultures.

Text: Matt. 5:5; Matt. 5:38-42

- Discuss this beatitude and what you believe Jesus is trying to communicate.
- Read 5: 38-42 and discuss your initial thoughts.
- Is Jesus suggesting weakness is a characteristic of a follower of his?
- Why turn the other cheek? Give the cloak? Walk two miles?
- Discuss other biblical characters that portrayed meekness.

Application:

- How are meekness and humility intimately connected?
- How might the American way of life fight against meekness?
- Share moments from your own life when meekness was needed.
- Describe the life of a person who doesn't need to be right, doesn't need to be in power, doesn't need bigger and better...but only needs Christ.
- How is that a blessed life?

The Rich Man and the Fisherman

A few years ago, a very rich businessman decides to take a vacation to a small tropical island in the South Pacific. He has worked hard all his life and has decided that now is the time to enjoy the fruits of his labor. He is excited about visiting the island because he's heard that there is incredible fishing there. He loved fishing as a young boy, but hasn't gone in years because he has been so busy working to save for his retirement.

So on the first day, he has his breakfast and heads to the beach. It's around 9:30 am. There he spots a fisherman coming in with a large bucket full of fish!

"How long did you fish for?" he asks. The fisherman looks at the businessman with a wide grin across his face and explains that he fishes for about three hours every day. The businessman then asks him why he returned so quickly.

"Don't worry", says the fisherman, "There's still plenty of fish out there."

Dumbfounded, the businessman asks the fisherman why he didn't continue catching more fish. The fisherman patiently explains that what he caught is all he needs. "I'll spend the rest of the day playing with my family, talking with my friends and maybe drinking a little wine. After then I'll relax on the beach."

Now the rich businessman figures he needs to teach this peasant fisherman a thing or two. So he explains to him that he should stay out all day and catch more fish. Then he could save up the extra money he makes and buy and even bigger boats to catch even more fish. The he could keep reinvesting his profits in even more boats and hire many other fishermen to work for him. If he works really hard, in 20 or 30 years he'll be a very rich man indeed.

The businessman feels pleased that he's helped teach this simple fellow how to become rich. Then the fisherman looks at the businessman with a puzzled look on his face and asks what he'll do after he becomes very rich.

The businessman responds quickly "You can spend time with your family, talk with your friends, and maybe drink a little wine. Or you could just relax on the beach."