



ALL SAINTS  
PRESBYTERIAN

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“The Numinous of Meekness” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | September 22, 2019

#### Matthew 5:3-10

**3** “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

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

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

**7** Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**8** Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**10** Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#### Background

Meekness is an extremely misunderstood word. Meekness is not often revered in today’s modern culture. It routinely symbolizes overt sensitivity, fragility or weakness. But that is not what Jesus is calling us to be when he says, “blessed are the meek.” Tim illustrates this by introducing us to another word: numinous. Paired with C.S. Lewis’s Aslan, we get a better picture of how we are to exhibit and practice meekness. Numinous is BOTH contradictions and opposites. Fear and awe, fun and serious, etc... Aslan allows the children to bury their heads in his mane and at the same time warns them to cover their ears before he roars. His roar was violent and powerful and made the trees bind like daffodils in the wind. And yet, small children are hugging him like a stuffed animal or pet. Meekness doesn’t have to be weakness. It can be a gentle strength for example. Tim has 2 main points from his sermon to help us understand meekness:

**Condition of the Lowly.** Meekness is a condition; not a personality or trait. Matthew makes meek and low synonymous in his account. People are worn down and burdened; bent over and helpless. Is that you? Single? Married but hanging on through your kids? High schooler with immense pressure causing anxiety? Older and experiencing health issues? If that is you, Jesus congratulates you = blessed or Oh Happy You?

**Choice of beloved:** Tim reference Psalm 37. This passage describes people that are powerless (fret not, don’t fret...). But they refuse to adopt the ways of this world = a choice as seen through meekness. Tim uses Esau as an example of someone who does not show any meekness. He was envied; he had it all; but in the end, this ALWAYS happens, that being, he loses it all. The world fades and what we are holding on to is stolen (health, beauty, wealth). Knowing that, choose meekness! Esau then wanted to be Jacob. How the tables turned.

Only one person can become low AND not grasp their way out: Jesus. He is not spineless or ruthless. He rode in on a beast of burden to become our beast of burden. He shows us what it is like to be under the control of compassion of others. How? He knows his kingdom is not of this world. And what

happens to those that are meek? See question 5 next. If this world were in fact all that there is, go ahead and lie, cheat, steal to get to the top.

**Discuss:**

- 1.) If someone called you “meek” would you take that as a compliment or a slight?
- 2.) What would exhibiting meekness look like to a difficult friend, family member or colleague? Remember, it’s not weakness.
- 3.) Tim uses Esau as an example of the exact opposite of Esau. What happened to Esau as it relates to meekness or the lack thereof – Genesis 27:28-36.
- 4.) What do you think being under the control of compassion of others looks like in our day to day lives? Like meekness?
- 5.) How should inheritance of the heavenly world help you exhibit meekness? As Tim states, the key to meekness is inheritance.

**Conclusion/Application**

Tim closes with the story of Telemachus. A monk who apparently started the shuttering of the Gladiator fights through his act of sacrifice and meekness. He simply asked them to stop and it cost him his life, speaking faithfulness with gentleness. You can choose meekness: Jesus’s strength in us under control of compassion for others.