

- PRAY
- READ Psalm 37; Matthew 4:12-5:12

Theme of Matthew: "Behold your King is coming to you" (Zech.9:9; Mt.21:4-5)

Theme of the Beatitudes: Christ's Portrait of His People (John Stott)

Theme of the Sermon on the Mount: Life Styles of the Rich and Famous

### CHARTING THE COURSE FOR THIS EVENING:

- Blessed are the gentle/meek
- They shall inherit the earth

### SUMMARY OF "POOR IN SPIRIT":

"Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (Isa.6:5).

"I have need to be baptized by You" (Matthew 3:14).

**SUMMARY OF "MOURN":** "My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Your law" (Psalm 119:136; cf. Jer.9:1; Matthew 23:37; Phil.3:18).

### MEEKNESS/GENTLENESS

meek/gentle (v.5; Psalm 37:11; cf. Mt.11:29; 25:34; 2 Cor.10:1; Gal.5:22f.; Col.3:12; 1 Pet.3:15f.; James 1:19-21) – Like the first two beatitudes, meekness is easier illustrated than defined:

Matthew 21:5 (our working theme for Matthew)

"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your King is coming to you, **Gentle**, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.' "

The donkey was an animal of \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kings 1:33) as opposed to the "\_\_\_\_\_", "war \_\_\_\_\_" and "the battle \_\_\_\_\_" (**Zechariah 9:9-10**).

According to Numbers 12:3, Moses was the meekest [most humble] man who ever lived. Ironically, Moses did not inherit/enter the land!

"The highest aim and honor for the warlord or emperor was the celebration of a *triumph* in Rome itself at the victorious consummation of a devastating conquest of a subject people" (Richard A. Horsley, *Jesus and Empire* p.26).



### **The Arch of Titus from outside the Forum**

Located at the highest point of the Via Sacra which leads to the Roman Forum, this triumphal arch, with only one passageway, commemorates Titus' conquest of Judea which ended the Jewish Wars (66-70). The arch was erected posthumously [81 A.D.], after Titus had already become a "god."

Roman soldiers would march through triumphal archways and the ritual supposedly cleansed them from the blood of the enemy.



### **Relief of the spoils of Jerusalem**

The scene depicts the triumphal procession with the booty from the temple at Jerusalem--the sacred Menorah, the Table of the Shewbread shown at an angle, and the silver trumpets which called the Jews to Rosh Hashanah. The bearers of the booty wear laurel crowns and those carrying the candlestick have pillows on their shoulders. Placards in the background explain the spoils or the victories Titus won. These few figures, standing for hundreds in the actual procession, move toward the carved arch at the right, complete with quadriga at the top. Originally, this relief was multicolored.



### **Relief of the triumph of Titus**

This scene depicts the actual triumphal procession with the toga-clad Titus in the chariot, but with the addition of allegorical figures--the winged Victory riding in the chariot with Titus who places a wreath on his head, the goddess leading the horses...



- Christ's Second Coming will contrast greatly with His first (Isaiah 63:1-6 with Revelation 19:11-16)! When Jesus first came, it was wearing the crown of thorns. When He returns a second time it will be with many diadems.

**NOTE:** The opposite of “meekness” includes things like vengeance (Rom.12:19) or uncontrolled outbursts of anger. Such people are warned that they will not inherit the kingdom (Galatians 5:19-23).

*He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city (Proverbs 16:32).*

**Illustration:** Nikita Krushchev shoe banging incident at United Nations saying, “We will bury you.”

## EXAMPLES OF CHRIST'S MEEKNESS (Matthew 11:29)

## APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION TO MEEKNESS/GENTLENESS (1 Peter 3:4,15)

## MEEKNESS IS TO BE EXHIBITED WITHIN THE CHURCH BY BOTH THE PASTOR AND THE PEOPLE (Ephesians 4:1-2; Colossians 3:12; Titus 3:1-2)

“For all these years, I have been slightly embarrassed by my grandfather's uncivilised behaviour exposed the world over. Indeed, my whole family was, so we never talked about it.” (Nina Khrushcheva, Oct 2, 2000).

*After looking at the first three beatitudes, can you think of reasons why it is wrong to model the church after a corporate business model?*

for they shall inherit the earth (v.5; Psalm 37; Daniel 7:18) –The last people in this world to inherit the earth are the gentle/meek! But the beatitudes are not rooted in the wisdom of this age, but the cross of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 22:26  
The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

Before World War II a Japanese officer confidently said, “The Christians say, the meek are going to inherit the earth, but we are the strong and intend to take it by force.” (quoted by J.G. Vos in his notes on Rev.19:11-20; p.8).

*How do we develop the attribute of meekness?*

## FOR NEXT WEEK: REREAD MATTHEW 5-7

*What is the meaning of the fourth and fifth beatitude? (Matthew 5:6-7)*

