

and uncontrollable state. The horse cannot be ridden and the dog chews furniture or pees on the floor. After training, the animal is now self-controlled. Our relationship with Christ helps control us in the proper way. So another way of reading Matthew 5:5 is, "Blessed are they who are entirely self-controlled." Weakness is giving in to the worst that is in you. Meekness is mastery over it.

The Greek word for meekness can connote "kindness" or "gentleness" too. Gentleness is consideration for others (Galatians 6:1). Gentleness can help us admit our faults to each other (James 5:16). Gentleness can encourage others (Titus 3:2).

What else is a big take away from Matthew 5:5? Yes that the kingdom of God is coming to this earth. Our reward is not heaven we will live on earth when Christ returns (Psalm 37:9-11).

Independent Practice:

Have the students break into groups and discuss some hot button issues they may have. For example, someone may not like being called a particular name or being spoken to in a harsh tone. Have the student's role play scenarios where they are confronted on their hot button issues. By role playing the issue in a controlled environment we begin to practice the self-control we can display in real life.

Close/Reflect

If time permits have the students reflect on these two scriptures: Psalm 25:9 and Psalm 147:6

Any final comments or questions?

Sources: The Zondervan 2000 Pastor's Annual, by T.T. Crabtree, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1999).

