



Love God



Love One Another



Do Mission Together

## Home Group study: week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### **THEME: THE BLESSINGS OF JESUS – BLESSED ARE THE MEEK, FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH**

#### **PASSAGE: Matthew 5v5**

#### **LAUNCH**

We have a set of daily notes by Rick Warren, based on his book 'The purpose driven life'. Today's note, 15 Feb, is entitled "What on earth am I here for?" It's taken from Jesus' parable of the talents, in which the master trusted his servants with 'talents' i.e. bags of money. Rick Warren says: 'If you treat everything God gives you as a trust, God promises three rewards in eternity. First, you will be given God's affirmation; he will say, "Good job! Well done!" Next, you will receive a promotion and be given greater responsibility in eternity: "I will put you in charge of many things." Then you will be honoured with a celebration: "come and share your master's happiness."

Ice breaker - What do you think happens 'in eternity' when Jesus comes again? (this could be a bit heated. Best not to spend too long on it, as we'll be looking at scriptures on it next.)

Sunday's talk by Mike was on the 3rd Beatitude in the Sermon on the Mount: 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.' Mat 5:5.

#### **DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING**

##### **Let's explore the meaning of 'inherit the earth' first**

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 and Revelation 20:1-6. Discuss these, particularly with regard to the life believers will lead after Jesus comes, and the call to persevere now.

Add in the quote from Guy Miller's book: 'In this beatitude Jesus talks of the importance of meekness in achieving a glorious fruit. The meek have an eternal inheritance both in a renewed earth and in the rewards in this life of bringing transformation.' Commission churches as a group reckon that Jesus will return to rule the earth for a 1000 years, before the final judgement. And as a result they emphasise the importance in 'this life' of working for transformation that will last somehow into the coming age of Jesus' rule.

##### **The importance of being meek**

Someone has said 'meekness is like power under firm control'. On Sunday, Mike used the image of an Alsatian police dog in his talk. Tim had a prophetic picture of a locomotive train gaining power and speed but firmly directed by the tracks.

What does being meek mean? Jesus was meek. Invite people to say how (e.g. willingly humbled himself to become fully human; only did what his Father told him to do; meekly allowed the Jewish authorities to arrest him, try him and kill him - when he could have

called on an army of angels to save him at any moment). What about suffering and perseverance being a big part of meekness.

Look at Mat 23:3 re obeying authority but not doing what you see unjust leaders doing. Consider God's call to reflect His righteousness and glory in our lives, and in the way we respond to unrighteousness in society and suffering in our own lives. Another thought: meekness is about developing our relationship with God so that we increasingly: love, trust, seek his will, obey and forgive.

If you have time you could read Ephesians 2:1-10, and note the idea of 'good works God prepared for us to do' at the end.

#### **APPLICATION**

Spend a little time in worship of Jesus for what he did. Ask for people's responses regarding their own lives from what we've looked through. And pray for each other as per the last para above.

