

# Blessed are *the . . .* MEEK

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER  
The Rev. Jeanette Leisk  
March 26, 2020

Just when we thought we had it all figured out...

Spring travel plans.

School field trips.

Holy week and Easter schedules.

And of course our midweek Lenten services.

We knew which pastor was going to show up where and when.

We had a theme.

We were organized.

And I was looking forward to visiting with the good people of Advent Lutheran on Thursday.

But things have changed a great deal since our original plans were made.

Most of us are staying at home for a time.

Most of us are washing our hands far more than we've ever done before.

Many of us are anxious about family members and friends.

And all of us are grateful for people we might not have thought about much before:

Truck drivers and grocery store clerks;

Police officers and EMT's;

Nurses and respiratory therapists.

Perhaps we're not used to relying on people very often.

Perhaps we're used to being independent, keeping things in control, going out when we please.

Now we can't.

It is a new experience for most of us.

And it is humbling.

As we continue our series about the Beatitudes,

we remember that these series of blessings begin Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

Crowds have been following Jesus – “great crowds” we're told.

There are Jews from the rural area of Galilee;

There are Greeks from the city Decapolis - experts in art and philosophy;

There are religious Jews from Judea;

There are even Romans – foreign soldiers occupying the land who are proud of their status as an empire “superpower.”

Jesus speaks to all of them.

He teaches all of them

I imagine the Roman soldiers who were listening rather smirked when they heard this one:

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

Even today the word “meek” seems more synonymous with “weak.”

We're told it's a “dog eat dog” world;

“Don't let them see you sweat;”

“Might is right.”

The Romans were known for their aggression in battle and their willingness to go to war.

They paraded home after their various conquests carrying the spoils.

Surely no one could believe this teacher who said, “Blessed are the meek,” could they?

When did meekness ever inherit anything?

Jesus says that in fact meekness inherits it all.

Humility is the true mark of a follower of Jesus.

Because you see, if we think we have complete control,

that by sheer power we can “win”,  
then there’s no need to trust in anyone beyond ourselves  
There’s no need for a savior ... because we are our own.

Jesus teaches a different way of being.

Jesus shows that it is okay to admit we don’t have complete control;  
It is okay to accept there are things we don’t understand;  
It is okay to feel a bit more vulnerable and dependent on others these days.  
It is okay to be humble ... to be meek.

Because only from a perspective of humility  
will we recognize the gift that faith is –  
our ability to trust (even for brief moments) in someone greater than ourselves.  
God is in control ... we are not.

May we humbly acknowledge our vulnerability,  
and may it open within us faith that is stronger than we ever could have imagined.

God bless you.

Pastor Jen