



## WEEK THREE: THE COMMITMENT PRINCIPLE

### CONNECT

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This week we continue our series called Hope Changes Everything! In this eight-week series, we'll look at the principles Jesus gave us in the beatitudes that help us see the hope and freedom we find in God alone. In this first week, we look at the **Believe Principle** looking at what we believe about God.

- What was your first "real" job?
- Is your personality more laid back or aggressive?

### DISCOVER

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#### Read Matthew 5:5a

"Happy are the meek."

- The word "meek" is often translated "humble" in other translations. We often look at this word and define it as weak and submissive in a negative, condescending tone, which is probably why many translations use the word humble instead of meek. In this verse, it has a different meaning. In other places, the same word is used to describe Jesus. While it can certainly mean gentle and mild, but in a deeper, fuller, humble sense, and in this case, especially in regard to God, it means a person who doesn't resist or fight with God. It is the meek who can stand in the face of evil without having to fight back through pride; knowing, and trusting, that God is in control.

#### Read Matthew 19:16-22

<sup>16</sup>Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

<sup>17</sup>"Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments."

<sup>18</sup>"Which ones?" the man asked.

And Jesus replied: "'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. <sup>19</sup>Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>20</sup>"I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?"

<sup>21</sup>Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

<sup>22</sup>But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

- How can being meek bring happiness?
- What was the young man who came to Jesus' view of Him? What was the focus of his question? Why do you think people feel they just need to do good things to have eternal life?
- Was Jesus telling the young man he only needed to obey these few commands, or was He telling him that he needed to keep them all? How do you know? What do you think the man understood?
- How could following what Jesus told the young man to do in verse 21 make him "perfect"?
- Looking at verse 21, Jesus offered for the young man to become perfect, to have treasure in heaven, and to follow Him. What condition did Jesus put on his receiving these things? Why couldn't he do it?

## **GROW**

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**Big Idea: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.**

- What is your view of being "meek"? What changes would you have to make to be meek in your relationship with God, committing all your life to Christ's care and control?
- What gets in the way of your total commitment to God?
- How would you respond if God told you to get rid of all of your possessions?
- Which of these barriers to commitment are the biggest struggle for you? How can you give up control in this area?
  - Pride
  - Guilt
  - Fear
  - Worry
  - Doubt

## **NEXT STEPS**

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- If you struggle with any hurts, habits, or hang-ups, come try out Celebrate Recovery on Monday nights at 6:30, at the Goodyear Campus, 431 N Litchfield Rd, Goodyear, 85338. Or find more information at [palmvalley.org/celebraterecovery](http://palmvalley.org/celebraterecovery)
- If you're struggling and need Hope, please call the church office (623-536-2106) and speak with one of our Pastors.

