



**BLESSED
ARE THE
MEEK**

a guide to surrender



Blessed are the Meek...

The third play in the progression of the playbook Jesus sets before us in Matthew 5 is, “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

If you are like most people, you don't like to hear that word meek. It goes back to the fact that we have a culture that has told us that **Meek=Weak**. We have been told that surrender is never an option. We have had it ingrained in us that we never back down or ever give up. We have been conditioned to live out the 80's Rick Astley song of faith... “Never gonna give you up...never gonna let you down.” (I know you're singing it in your head right now).

The problem comes when the conditioning of our culture slams into the experiences of our past. We either keep fighting hard to never surrender because we don't want to be seen as weak, or we don't surrender because our past has taught us that when we fight to get what we want, we “win.” In fact, what keeps us from true surrender is just that... our past.

→ *Past hurts*

→ *Past pains*

→ *Past marriages*

→ *Past decisions*

→ *Past addictions*

→ *Past jobs*

→ *Past sickness*

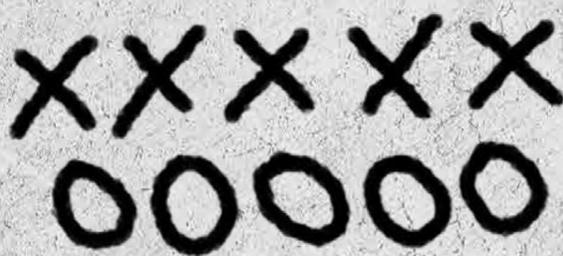
→ *Past loss*

→ *Past friendships*

→ *Past hardships*

As I was driving my car the other day, it hit me again: I don't drive my car by looking in the rearview mirror for long periods of time. I glance back to make sure it is clear. I check it to make sure I am past whatever was in the lane. I peek from time to time to see what is back there. However, I don't drive with my gaze in the rearview mirror. Why? Because **gazing at the past will crash the future.**

My windshield is a hundred times bigger than my rearview mirror. Why? Because in order to get where you are going, you need to be able to see all that is in front of you. Sometimes I miss what God is doing ahead because I am so focused on the past. My fear, pain, hurt, hurts caused, and things behind paralyze me for what is ahead. I get so fixated on that little mirror of what is behind, that I start to drift off the road and get into a wreck that will cause me to miss the future in front of me.



What if today we do as Paul encourages? We forget the past. Learn from it. Grow from it. Then forget it. What if we were to surrender our past for a better future in Christ? What if we did not see surrender as weakness but as strength? What if we turned over our lives to gain them back? What if we understood that **Meekness=Surrender** to Jesus NOW. Then we understand that **Surrender=Freedom** on this earth NOW to help get us and others to the other side of this thing called eternity?

Paul gives us the strategy for the playbook of life in Philippians 3:13-14:

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Forget What Is Behind

Some of you are thinking that is easier said than done. I have learned that when I drive my life through the rearview mirror, it distracts me from the windshield life God wants me to live. I pray every day that I will not dwell on the things I have done or not done in the past and that God will show me the big and bright 4K life in front of me through the windshield.

Today, start with praying to God for what is ahead and for a distancing of your past, so you can focus on what's ahead.





Strain Toward What's Ahead

If you have ever worked out in the gym a day in your life, you know that in order to have progress, there are days that are easy and exciting, and then there are days that you have to strain to push forward. I have found that the days I force myself to go to the gym are the days I need it the most. The days I fight every mile on the treadmill and every rep with a weight are the days I will find the reward even greater. The strain ahead is where freedom is found.

This week press into the things of God that might have been exciting and easy when you started but have become a strain now. Maybe it is prayer. Maybe it is weekly worship. Maybe it is serving. Maybe it is talking with a friend, a coworker, or a family member about your faith journey and how they can join you on the journey. Remember, **Surrender Leads To Saved Souls.**

When you surrender your life, it helps others find the freedom you have found.

Press On

Paul then says to press on to what lies ahead. The road ahead may not be easy. It may not be glamorous. However, it will be worth the strain to reach the prize.

God did not call you to your greatest mistake.

God did not call you to your greatest blunder.

God did not call you to the past hurt, pain, and loss.

God did not even call you to your greatest past achievements.

However, God will use all of that for you to see how glorious the future is with him.

Today...

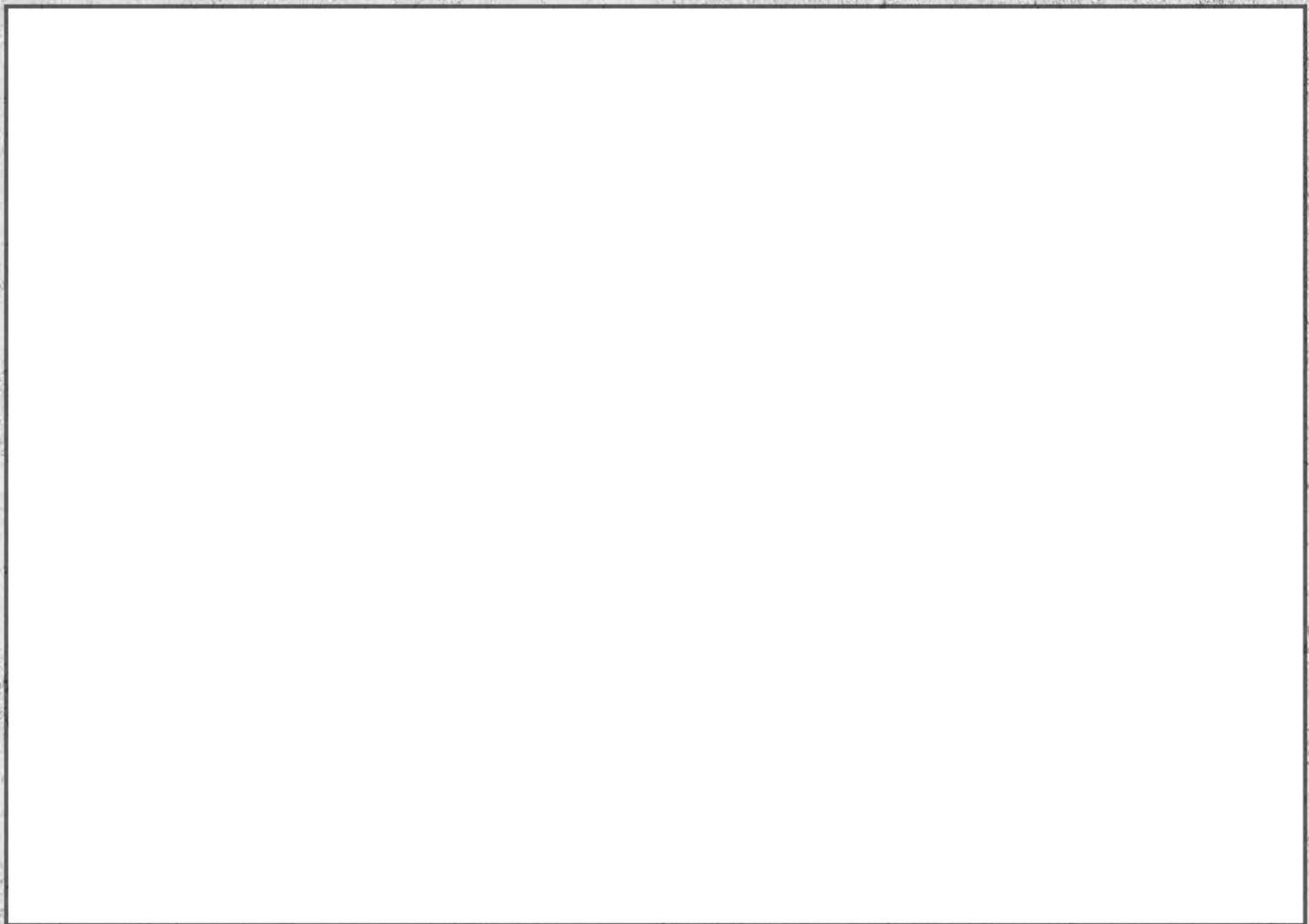
Forget the past...

Look ahead...

Press forward...

Receive the prize...which, by the way, is freedom and eternity with Christ.

What is the thing in your past you need to surrender and move forward from?



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PLAYBOOK
strategies for kingdom living