

## MEDITATION

# 'The meek shall inherit the earth'

In Psalm 37:11 we read that "the meek shall inherit the earth." It is this statement that Jesus reaffirms in his "Sermon on the Mount."

Interestingly, though, the Old Testament text that Jesus quoted from goes on to say that the meek will also delight in "shalom." Although Jesus doesn't use the familiar Hebrew word "shalom" in his quotation, the psalmist's use of this important word seems to help clarify the promise that Jesus was making in Matthew 5:5.

The word "shalom" is often translated "peace," but it means much more than this one word can convey. Shalom is a state of completeness and it describes a person who is blessed with abundance. This is a striking biblical promise, for the word "meek" describes a person who exhibits both patient submission and humility; not exactly the sort

of person we would think of as blessed with abundance in this life. Of course, this sort of abundance rarely has to do with the kind of wealth that our world considers a mark of success.

In the New Testament the word "meek" translates a Greek term that typically describes an inward attitude that is expressed in outward actions. It is also one of the fruits of the Christ-like character that is produced in the lives of believers by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:23), which means that because of their meekness believers do not have to be overcome with resentment when they suffer adversity; their Christ-like spirit causes them to under-

stand that their lives are in the loving hand of God.

Because they are meek, Christians also are able to accept injuries from other people, knowing always that God is in control and that God will ultimately win victory over human sin in all of its many manifestations.

The meekness and gentleness of Christ was the source of Paul's own plea to the disloyal Corinthians (2 Corinthians 10:1), and Paul also encouraged the exercise of meekness as the means of rebuke for an errant brother (2 Timothy 2:25) or as a shared response to the struggles of life (Ephesians 4:2).

Other New Testament writers exhort believers to respond with meekness to disbelievers and others who

challenge our faith (1 Peter 3:15), but they also remind us that the supreme example of meekness is found in the character of Jesus Christ, who demonstrated it especially when he stood before his unjust accusers without a word of retort or self-justification.

Unfortunately, even among believers the spiritual quality of meekness is rare these days, which led Andrew Murray to write, "We find many (believers) in whom the gifts of the Spirit are many and manifest, and who are the channels of blessing to (others), but of whom, when the testing time comes...it is only too painfully manifest that the grace of meekness...is scarce to be seen."

Except for genuine love, there may be no other spiritual trait that ought to so characterize followers of Jesus as meekness.



Dr. Jeff Hensley  
Pastor  
Kings Mountain Baptist Church

### Meditation

## CHURCH BRIEFS

† "The Christian Brothers" will perform Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at a Celebration of Joy Christmas Banquet at Bynum Chapel Family Life Center sponsored by the Bynum Chapel Choir.

Tickets are on sale for the semi-formal event. Turkey and ham with all the trimmings will be served. Door prizes will be presented during the evening.

For tickets call Philip Hager, 704-747-4052 or 704-739-8371; Maxine Simmons, 704-730-8804; Esther Campbell, 704-739-3352; Gale Hunter, 704-524-7129; Angela Burris, 704-869-6248 and Marie Burris, 704-739-2355.

† Kingdom of God Ministries, 902 S. Battleground Ave., will host Harvest of Love Conference Dec. 6-8.

Apostle Bryan P. Curry will fill the pulpit at the 11 a.m. service Sunday and Apostle Steven Deitz of Hickory's Resurrection International Church will fill the pulpit at the 6 p.m. serv-

ice. Bishop John A. McCullough of Friendship Christian Church will preach at the 7 p.m. service Monday night and Rev. William Thompson of Grover will preach at the Tuesday 7 p.m. service. The public is invited.

† Two Christmas musical programs will be presented Dec. 13 and Dec. 19-20 at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 605 W. King St. Admission is free and open to the public.

"Keyboards at Christmas" will feature six keyboardists playing popular Christmas music, carols and more on Dec. 13.

"A Christmas to Remember," an original drama and musical, will be presented Dec. 19 and 20. Come early for a good seat.

Ministers of Music at First Baptist are Morris Jordan, Senior Adults; Shane Doty, Discipleship; Jeff Johnson, Students; and Jonathan Bundon, Worship.

# Fellowship & Faith



Featured Church of the Week:

## David Baptist Church

### KINGS MOUNTAIN

Bethlehem Baptist Church  
1017 Bethlehem Road  
704-739-7487

Body of Christ Fellowship Center  
405 S. Cherokee St.  
www.bodyofchrist7.com

Boyce Memorial ARP Church  
Edgemont Drive  
704-739-4917

Burning Bush House of God  
310 Long Branch Rd (KM)  
704-739-2877

Calvary Way Holiness Church  
1017 Second Street  
Pastor Clifton Morgan

Carson Memorial Baptist Church  
262 Sparrow Springs Road  
704-739-2247

Central United Methodist Church  
113 S. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-2471

Cherokee St. Baptist Church  
421 S. Cherokee Street  
704-739-7697

Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church  
618 Chestnut Ridge Road  
704-739-4015

Christian Freedom Southern Baptist Church  
246 Range Road  
704-739-4152

Christ The King Catholic Church  
714 Stone Street  
704-487-7697

Church at Kings Mountain  
108 E. Mountain St.  
(KM Women's Club Bldg.)  
704-739-1323

Cornerstone Church Of God  
202 Margrace Road  
704-739-3773

Cornerstone Independent Baptist  
107 Range Road  
704-737-0477

Crowders Mountain Baptist  
125 Mayberry Lane  
704-739-0310

David Baptist Church  
2300 David Baptist Church Road  
704-739-4555

Dixon Presbyterian Church  
602 Dixon School Road  
704-739-5536

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church  
701 E. Gold Street  
704-739-3215

East Kings Mountain Church of God  
Hwy 161, Bessemer City/KM Hwy.  
704-739-7367

Eastside Baptist Church  
308 York Road  
704-739-8055

Ebenezer Baptist Church  
1621 County Line Road  
704-739-8331

El Bethel United Methodist Church  
122 El-bethel Road

704-739-9174  
Emmanuel Independent Baptist Church  
602 Canterbury Road  
704-739-9939

Faith Ablaze Church  
1128 S. York Road  
704-739-8496

Faith Baptist Church  
1009 Linwood Road  
704-739-8396

Faith Holiness Church  
Hwy. 161/Bessemer City Rd.  
704-739-1997

Family Worship Center  
1818 Shelby Road  
704-739-7206

First Baptist Church  
605 W. King Street  
704-739-3651

First Church of the Nazarene  
121 Countryside Road  
704-734-1143

First Presbyterian Church  
111 E. King Street  
704-739-8072

First Wesleyan Church  
505 N. Piedmont Avenue  
704-739-4266

Galilee United Methodist  
117 Galilee Church Road  
704-739-7011

Gospel Assembly Church  
202 S. Railroad Avenue  
704-739-5351

Good Hope Presbyterian Church  
105 N. Cansler Street  
704-739-1062

Grace Fellowship  
144 West Mountain Street  
704-481-8888

Grace United Methodist Church  
830 Church Street  
704-739-6000

Harvest Baptist Church  
144 Ware Road  
704-734-0714

Kings Mountain Baptist Church  
101 W. Mountain Street  
704-739-2516

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**Notice**  
In order to accommodate the number of churches in our communities, we will print two alternating lists of churches each week. If you don't see the church you're looking for, be sure to check next weeks paper.

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