



Blessed to be Respected and Purposeful



Speaker: Tom Mercer
February 2-3, 2019

Matthew 5:1-2

John 14:6

Decision → MAKAR → Impression



1. World championships are won through respect.

Matthew 11:29

We admit we aren't perfect, but punish someone who comes to that same conclusion.

Motive	Leverage	Time	Benefits	Reaction
Manipulate	Power	Fast	Short-term	<u>Resentment</u>
Inspire	Influence	Slow	Eternal	<u>Respect</u>



2. You don't get points for first-downs.

Matthew 5:6

God would never lead us into a circumstance that would compromise our mission.



CONNECTION

1. Thinking about last week's conversation, how aware of your own sinful desires are you? How did you do at resisting temptation during the last week?

WEEKEND REVIEW

2. Pastor Tom said, "Meekness is not weakness", and that the decision we must make is to not strike back when your feelings are hurt. To do so generates the respect of others. Share a time when you noticed someone who was able to strike back but chose not to. How did your opinion of them change?

3. Pastor Tom talked a lot about staying committed to a biblical game plan. He said that when we do, contentment tends to grow in our lives. Do you have a game plan for righteousness? What does that look like? Share some practical ideas you've found to work for you, that others might learn from.

4. Is there anything else from the weekend message that challenged or encouraged you?

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 5:5

5. What is the promise given for those who are meek?

6. The Greek word *prautes* was sometimes used to describe a strong stallion, whose naturally wild spirit had to be subdued or controlled by a trainer so that the horse's strength could become useful. Pastor Tom defined meekness as "strength under control." How would you feel about being described as a stallion being trained by God?

7. Look up these scriptures and discuss how Jesus could respond the way He did, yet still describe himself as meek or gentle. Mark 11:15-19, Mark 11:27-33, Luke 22:63-71.

Read Matthew 5:6

8. What is the promise given to those who hunger and thirst for righteousness? Why do you think most Christians' hunger and thirst for righteousness is so inconsistent?

9. Look up these passages which also describe an appetite for righteousness. Psalm 42:1-2, Isaiah 55:1-2. How do they cause you to evaluate your own hunger and thirst for God? Share with the group one habit you would like start or continue this week to pursue righteousness.

OIKOCENTRIC LIVING

10. When was the last time you had to conscientiously submit to someone else? Did you do so in a gentle way or did it take on another form?

11. Do others see you as meek (self-controlled and gentle)? What can you do to grow in meekness?