

DISCUSSION GUIDE
DISPARITY GOSPEL: PART 3 – Blessed Are the Doormats?

Text: MATTHEW 5:5

Warming Up

1. Describe a time when you experienced someone exercising power over you that left you feeling helpless?
2. Who do you think really holds power in our world? What power do they have?

Digging In

Read Matthew 5:5

1. Pastor Craig pointed out that the Greek word is also translated as “gentle” like in Matthew 11: 29. Does that change your understanding of this Beatitude?
2. How do you think Jesus’ original listeners thought of themselves?
3. Who fits the category of “the meek” today?
4. Pastor Craig talked about “*Pax Romana*” (Roman Peace) as peace through conquest (or through strength). Do we see this peace today?
5. What is Jesus’ power?

Read Matthew 11:12

1. Pastor Craig quoted Matthew 11:12 from the NASB, “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.” How is that different from the other versions in your class?
2. Do you think our culture is more comfortable with a violent hero, or a crucified Savior? Why or why not?
3. How does the resurrection transform a tragic figure into a glorious victor?

Re-Read Matthew 5:5

1. Is Jesus calling us to be doormats?
2. If you were to embrace meekness or gentleness what does that look like?
3. How do you think you will be perceived by those you interact with regularly if you embraced meekness?

Sending Out

Jesus laid aside his power to bring salvation to this world. Are you willing to reject the Gospel of Power to embrace the Gospel of Love?

Closing

May we follow Jesus in his way of meekness, not to be doormats but to be servants who are willing to embrace God’s way of love.

Close in Prayer