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Calvary Baptist Church W.A.R. Bible Study
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CFVS Motivation – Lesson Six

Creating A Winning Attitude In A Dark World
Matthew 5:5

The year was 2005. I was rushing through O'Hara International Airport in Chicago with a fellow minister. It was a cold Sunday night in February. We both had a long day in church. We were trying to get through a security checkpoint at the busiest airport in the world, find our departing gate at United Airlines, and take a breather before boarding a 9:00 p.m. flight to New Orleans. We were scheduled to be at a meeting the next morning at 10:00 a.m. for the National Baptist Convention of America Evangelical Board.

We made it through the security checkpoint and went to the United Lounge. We sat in the lounge enjoying a coke and some snacks. We shared a small conversation. A gentleman was sitting next to us on the small island bar stool wearing a dark suit and red untied tie as though he had been suited up all day. The man seemed to be unwinding by enjoying a glass of red wine along with his wife who sat observing the patrons going to and from. I heard him speak and could detect his *patois*, a heavy African dialect. The man was small in stature and appeared quite approachable as he turned and politely engaged in conversation with the two of us. It was small chatter, some political and then weather. He did not try and dominate the conversation. He mainly spoke and listened. Eventually, the time came for us to leave the man to get to our gate and board our plane. The man never told us his name and we never asked. It was just a brief encounter with a man in the United Airlines hub lounge.

The next day after a meeting, my friend came to me excited with a newspaper in his hand. He asked if I knew who we were talking to last night in the hub lounge. I had no idea who the man in the hub lounge was. At this point, he handed me the paper. On the front page was

indeed the gentleman we had met in the hub lounge. His name was Paul Rusesabagina, the Christian Rwandan hotel manager who managed to save over 1,200 people through sheer bravery and selflessness. You may be familiar with his story if you have seen *Hotel Rwanda*. The sacrifices Mr. Rusesabagina made for others many would not ever think to do. He placed his own life on the line to save other people. My response was, “Wow! Real power doesn’t have to make a sound!”

Many would have been eager to throw their name out there because we want the recognition, we feel we deserve. We often cannot hold our peace when we get among other people that we want to impress. That is when the competition begins. We begin to brag about how much we know and where we matriculated. However, real power recognizes that we are indeed nothing and the God we serve is our everything. When we recognize that the only power we have is borrowed from God then He will give us something in exchange.

Paul Rusesabagina does not have to go around the country with a bull horn announcing who he is to everyone that he meets. Yet, he is known all over this world as a meek man that sacrificed his life for others. He has made his mark on the earth not by people that he was able to dominate intellectually but by the God that dominated him spiritually. Not by his cleverness or his wit but by his humility and willingness. Paul Rusesabagina has a winning attitude. He has learned something that most people will never learn in a lifetime. Paul Rusesabagina lives his life with a proper motivation toward the world community.

Jesus says in Matthew 5:5, “*Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth*”. Jesus was dealing with the matter of power and dominance that had a tremendous influence on the lives of most Jewish people. The Roman Government’s pervasive presence in Judea had lasting effects on the poor and marginalized people of that day. Jesus

sought to teach them strength is not in the ability to control someone else but in the ability to control yourself.

What does the word “meek” mean? Jesus borrows this verse from the Old Testament in Psalm 37:11 when the Psalter says, “but the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace”. The word meek is the Greek word “praios”, which means mild, gentle, and soft. Praisos alludes to the breaking in of horses or the training of animals. The Greek understanding of meek carries with it the idea of taking power and fury and then putting it under control. Praisos means power under control. Meekness says, “I am not a threat to you. I don’t want to hurt you! It’s not that I am weak but my intentions are good”. Meekness is evidence your motivation is to live according to what is important to God—not-self. Humility is a position but meekness is purity.

For they shall inherit the earth. The Greek word translated inherit, or “kleronomeo”, means to receive an allotted portion. The earth is the allotted portion of the meek. Jesus is talking about the meek inheriting

things in the earth that money cannot buy. Earth means here. The meek are given the kingdom of God, which is where His will is as perfectly done on earth as it is in heaven.

Biblical Text Questions

1. What does the word “meek” mean?
2. What does “inherit the earth” mean?
3. How does Galatians 6:1 apply to this lesson?

Life Application Questions

1. How should meekness apply to a person experiencing racism?
2. Does F.O.O.M.M. Motivation come through being meek?
3. How does the meek inherit the earth?