

# *“Blessed Sermon”*

Peter Spofforth  
Guest Youth Minister

*February 2, 2020*

From the Pulpit

The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

444 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: 614.228.1741 Fax: 614.461.1741

Email: [home@first-church.org](mailto:home@first-church.org)

Website: <http://www.first-church.org>

## *“Blessed Sermon”*

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*This week, it looks as though things are finally going to be simple.*

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As Reverend Emily has told us many times, Jesus is a sneaky Jesus. His lessons are woven into various stories with complicated words and phrases. Now fortunately, we have some amazing church leaders who so graciously take our hand and guide us through every week. They help us understand and even interpret these stories for ourselves, through common terms such as the Buckeyes, Twitter, even Baby Yoda.

But nope not this week. This week we are led up to the mountain by Jesus and he delivers a sermon right to us--no more games.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Mulling over these statements, one kept sticking out to me. It was “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the Earth.”

Inherit the earth? That is incredibly profound. With the others, we just have the merciful receiving mercy and those mourning comforted. Jesus is clearly explaining the sort of people who are favored by God, but inheriting the earth? That is so vast, there is such magnitude and responsibility. Inheriting the earth is no easy task, by any means, so why, for this incredible task, does God choose the meek?

I immediately decided I needed to learn more about what it means to be meek. So like any reasonable person my age, I just looked it up on Google. By definition someone who is meek is patient, gentle, quiet. Doesn't seem like the type of person who we'd imagine even coaching a soccer team, much less inheriting the earth. Yet those are the ones chosen by God.

My mind immediately jumped to a principle I have carried with me for a long time, inspired by a quote which could be from anything from a famous philosopher or some random Marvel movie. I honestly have completely forgotten. But in essence, it states that the best leaders are the ones who do not seek that position, because they won't be afraid of losing it. They won't lead with the fear of losing it. (Now seriously if that rings any bells please let me know I spent hours trying to remember where it comes from.)

Our own leaders are most guilty of this. They spend most of their lives preparing to be elected. And if elected, their only focus is on getting re-elected. It is a vicious, endless cycle.

These leaders, only concerned with perpetuating their own power, doing whatever it takes for a favorable poll, serving only to serve themselves.

These leaders aren't strong, they aren't principled, they're simply desperate for power.

It is the leaders that are gentle and patient and quiet and listening that are strong. That serve people before themselves, and principle above personal gain. These are the meek, and Jesus tells us that they are blessed by God.

In this one line, Jesus flips our understanding. It is not the loudest or those who put themselves first in line. It is the meek, that God chooses to inherit the earth. Once again, Jesus' message is not so simple. In fact, Jesus is so sneaky, that even when you think he isn't being sneaky, he is actually being sneaky the whole time.