

Study Guide

The Radical Joy of God

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." For many, the word meek just doesn't sound right. It simply doesn't make sense. Growing up in America, the idea of meekness is often associated with *weakness*.

The notion that the meek are blessed and shall inherit anything seems absurd to most. At the root of this misconception, is a knowledge gap about what the word "meek" really means.

This week, we look to understand what Jesus was talking about and what he has in store for us when we fully grasp the concept of meekness and its implications to our relationships with one another. Meekness is NOT weakness. As a group, explore why, and how it's truly something exhibited by the strongest among us.

The questions below walk through the various aspects of the message, touch lightly on the early ones to build context, but seek the Holy Spirit's guidance to where you should spend more time as a group. What are the areas that you need to work though on a heart level, not a theological level? The questions are intended to lead to some level of confession and transparency in an effort to take action for personal spiritual group. Create space and time for folks to share and encourage openness and honesty. Pray for each other to close the meeting.

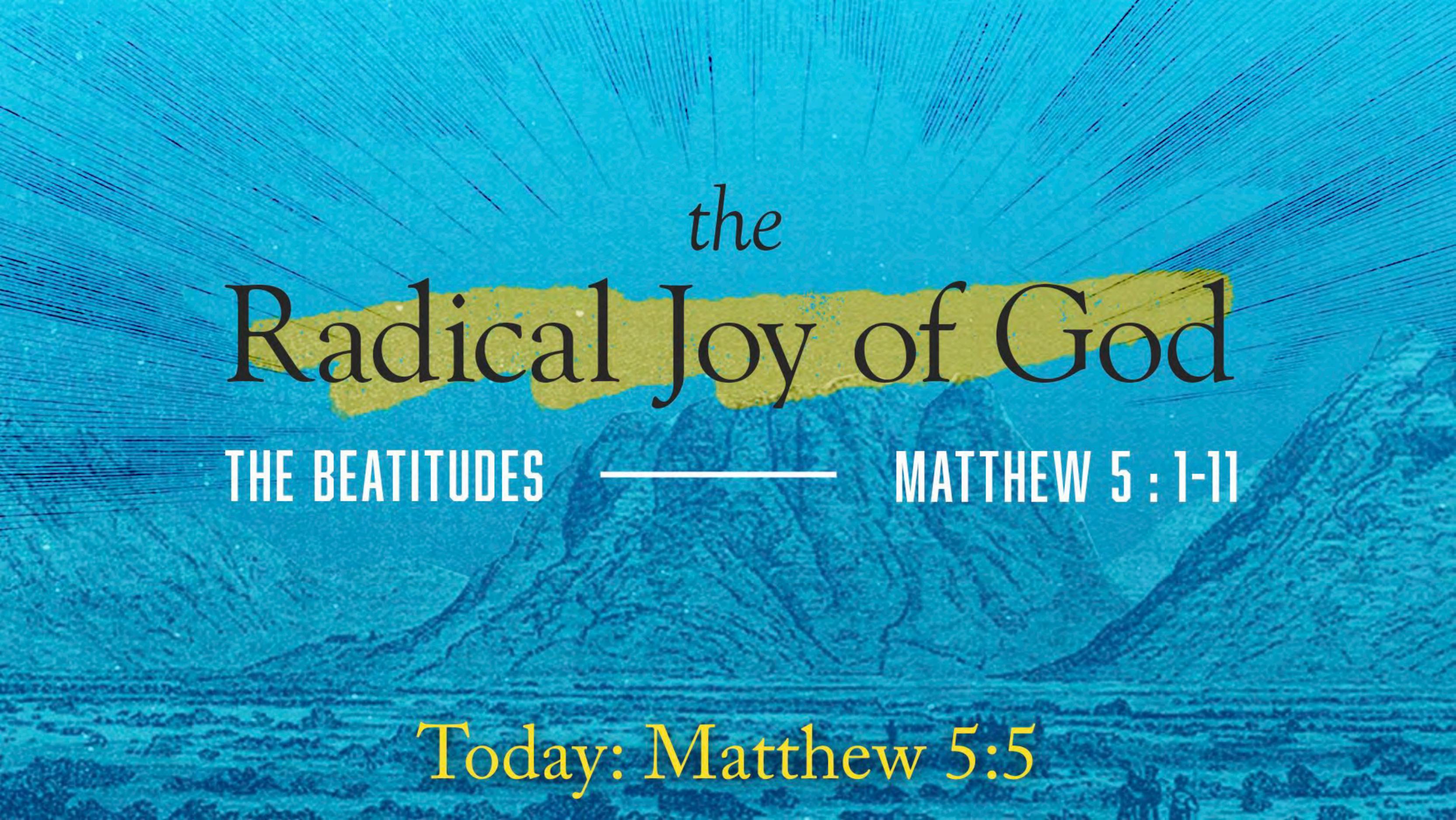
1. Prior to hearing the message, what did you associate with meekness?
2. Do words like submissive, weak, easily imposed upon, docile, and timid come to mind?
 - a. Why do think that is? Was meekness weakness?
3. Discuss your observations about the meekness of Jesus. Read John 18:19-24
 - a. Read Matthew 11:29 - Discuss your observations. What does this tell us about Christ?

4. Meek: “praus” (prah-oos”. Power under control, power under authority, strength under control, mild, gentle.
 - a. In light of the word’s origin and meaning, discuss how the horse breaking observations from the video, provide great context and understanding to what it means to be meek? What are the parallels? How does trusting God play a central role in being meek?
 - b. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHwGWBjyMSg>

5. How does the phrase, “Let go and Let God” reflect some key aspects of being meek?
 - a. Discuss personal challenges or concerns with taking the steps necessary to make this happen in your life. What’s holding you back from letting go?

6. Implications of Meekness: Discuss the various scripture verses and take the conversation where it may lead your group.
 - a. Implications at home: Read Ephesians 5 & 6, “Walking in Love”, how is this speaking to you on a personal level? What can you do better? How does the context of these passages shed light to the beauty of the interrelationships described within the text?
 - b. What help or accountability do you need to follow through?
 - c. Implications at work: Read Colossians 3:23, what do you need to do to make this a reality? Why is this so hard to do at times? How does our view of work and our calling impact our ability to work like this?

7. Read Philippians 2:1-11, the richness of this text is profound, take the conversation where the Spirit leads you. What jumps out at you, what do you still need to wrestle with? How does Christ’s example compel you to put others first and serve like he served. Love like he loved?

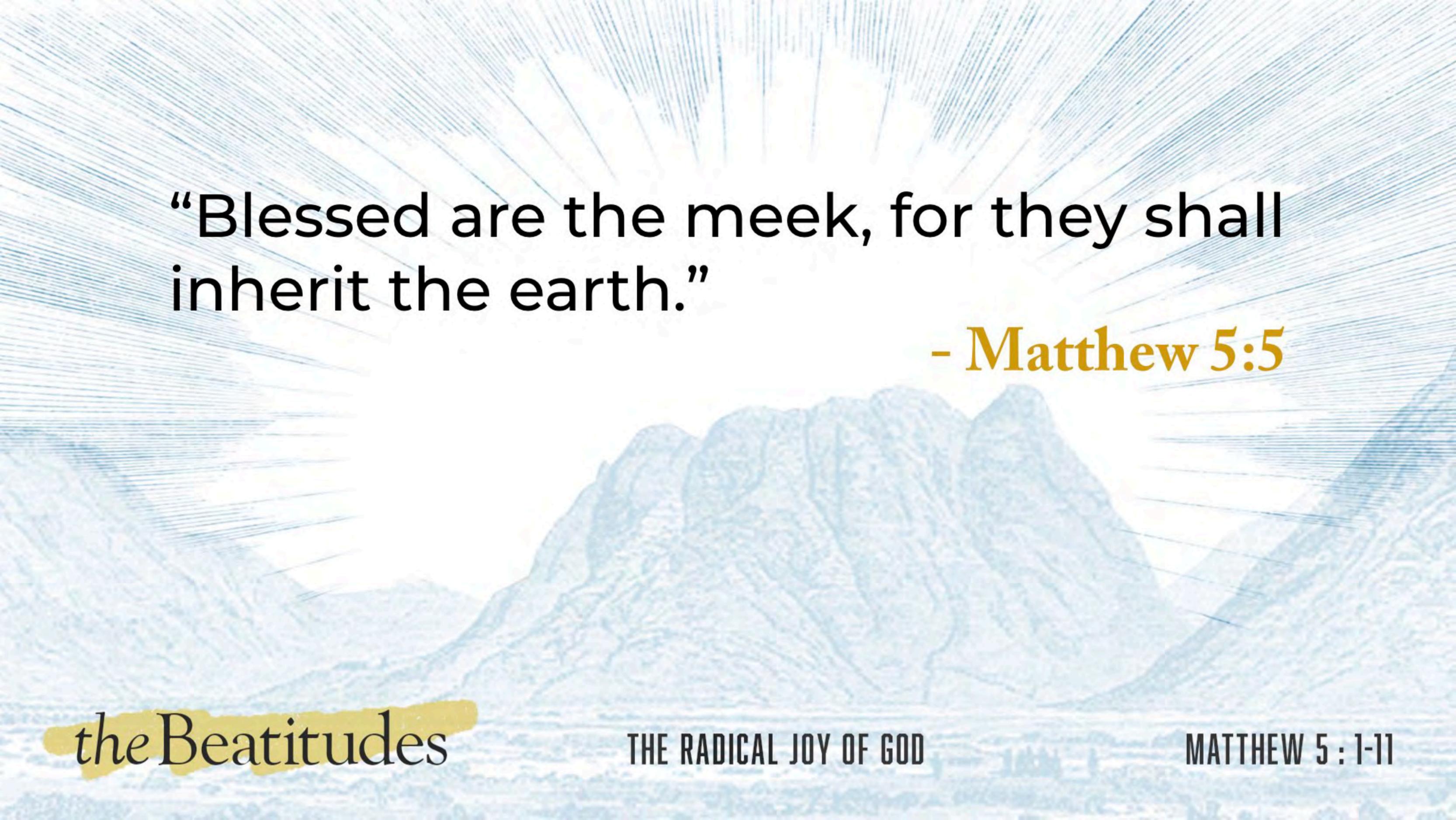


the
Radical Joy of God

THE BEATITUDES

———— MATTHEW 5 : 1-11

Today: Matthew 5:5



“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

- **Matthew 5:5**

the Beatitudes

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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11

SYNONYMS FOR MEEK

Submissive

Weak

Easily Imposed Upon

Docile

Timid

Humble

Compliant

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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11

THE NOTABLE MEEK OF SCRIPTURE

Moses

“Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.”

- Numbers 12:3



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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11

THE NOTABLE MEEK OF SCRIPTURE

Jesus

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

- **Matthew 11:29**

Jesus

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.”

- **Philippians 2:5-9**

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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11

DEFINITION

Meek - “praus” (prah-oos’)

“praus” (prah-oos’) - The word “praus” was borrowed from the military and relates to horse training. ... When a horse passed the conditioning required for a war horse, its state was described as '**praus,**' [that is, **meek**]. The war horse had '**power under authority,**' '**strength under control.**'

Strong's Concordance - **Praus: mild, gentle**

STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL



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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11

IMPLICATIONS AT HOME

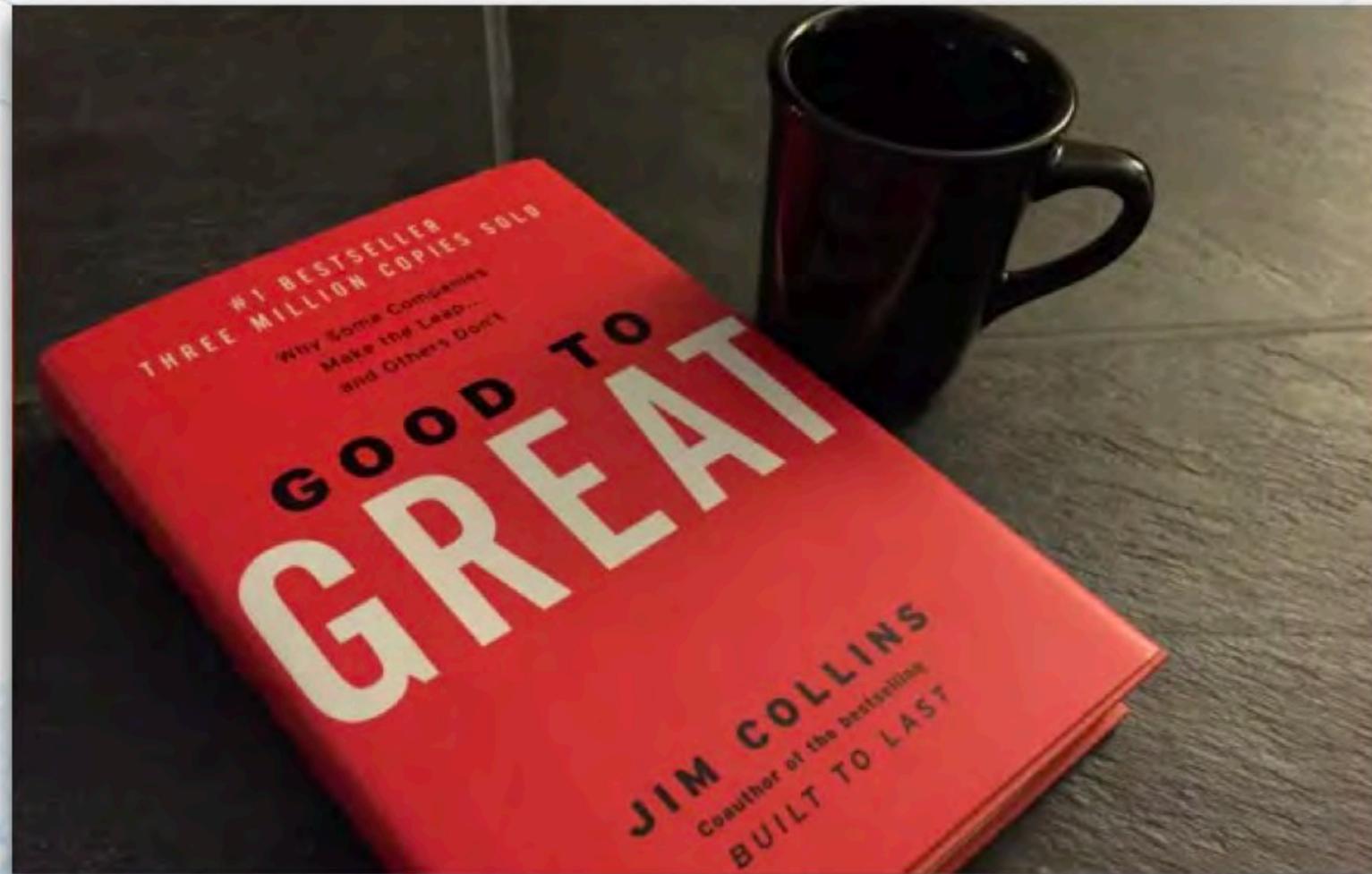
Matthew 11:29 - Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. (Parents, don't be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up.)

Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Psalms 133 - How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity

IMPLICATIONS AT WORK

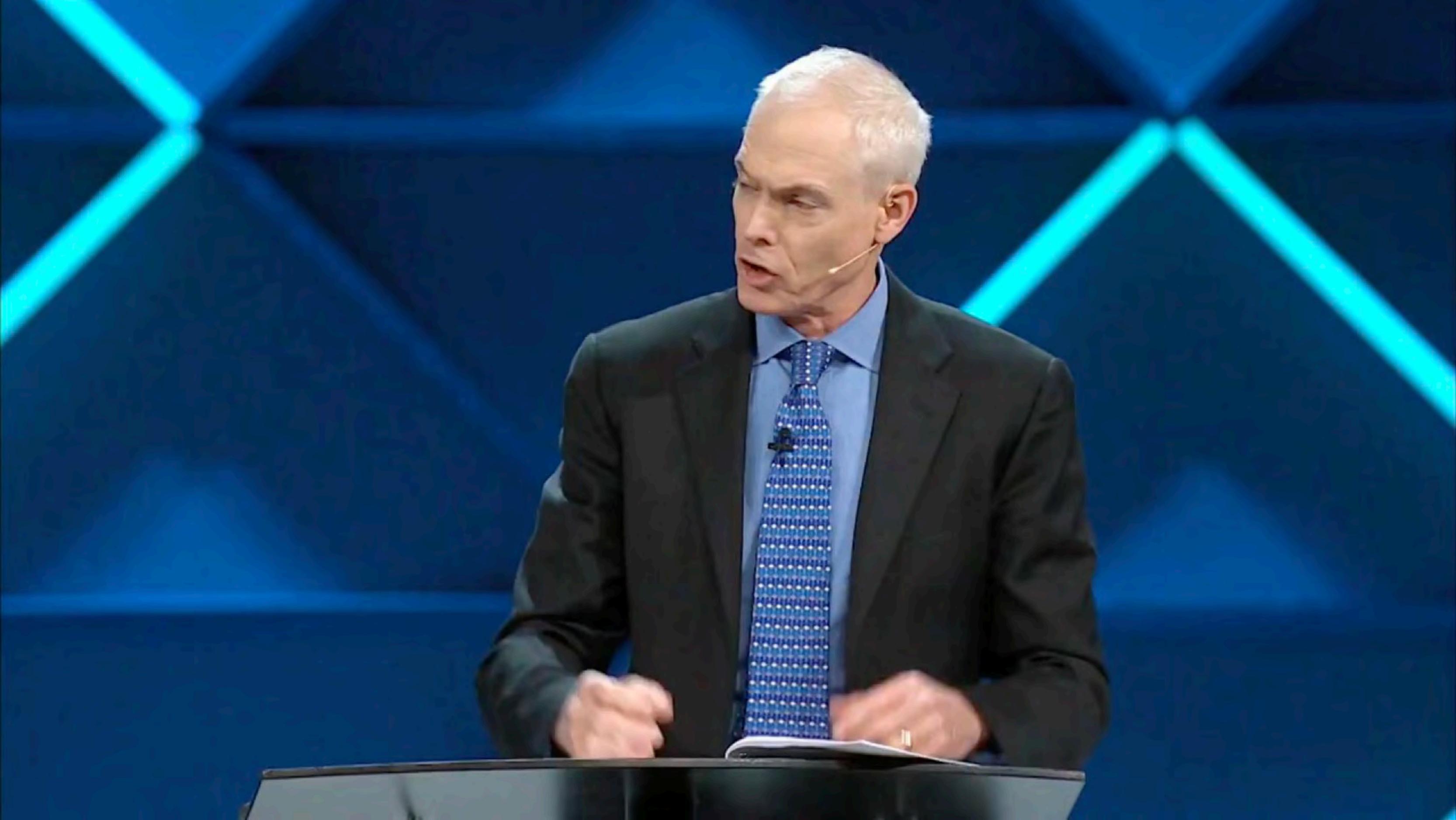
Colossians 3:23 - Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.



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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11



IMPLICATIONS AT WORK

Proverbs 22:1 - A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

“...people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

- **Maya Angelou**

MEEK // GENTLE // HUMBLE

**BE STRONG &
UNDER CONTROL**

Philippians 2:1-11



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MATTHEW 5 : 1-11