

ECHO CHURCH

No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God.

REBRAND SERIES

Under New Management

A 6-Day Devotional

July 20 - July 25, 2026

Matthew 5:5 | Psalm 37:9-11 NKJV

Pastor Rich Saunders Jr.
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Before You Begin

This devotional was written to carry you from Sunday's message into the rest of your week. It is built on a single verse, Matthew 5:5, and its companion in Psalm 37. The goal is not to rush through it, but to slow down and let one truth rebrand the way you live. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Set aside a few unhurried minutes each day. Being still is not wasted time. It is what allows the word to sit with you so that when you apply it, it sticks. Read slowly. Let the text speak before you speak back to it.

Each day follows the same simple rhythm:

Focus. A single sentence that names the truth for the day. Let it frame everything that follows.

Scripture. Read the passage first, before the devotional thoughts. Let God's word set the tone.

Devotional Reading. Five short paragraphs that unpack the day's focus and connect it to your life.

Reflection Questions. Three honest questions. Do not rush past them. This is where the word moves from your head to your heart.

Prayer. A short prayer to pray as your own, or as a starting point for your own words.

Declaration. A single line to speak out loud over your life. Say it with your own mouth before you close the page.

You do not have to become like the world to keep from losing. This week, we are learning to surrender the reins, trust the God who establishes our portion, and live under new management.

Slow down. Sit with it. Let God rebrand the way you live.

Blessed Is Not What You Think

Day 1 | Monday, July 20, 2026

Focus: *Flourishing under the approval of God is not measured by what you own.*

Matthew 5:5 NKJV 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Before we can understand meekness, we have to correct what we believe about being blessed. We have adopted the definition of blessed as the to be envied, flourishing under the approval of God. Notice what that definition does not say. It does not say blessed because you have the newest car, the newest pair of shoes, or the biggest house. Blessed is not limited to the material things we have made to mean blessed.

To be blessed is to actually flourish. It means to grow, to thrive, and to prosper. But the source of that flourishing is not your bank account or your possessions. The source is the approval of God. That reframes everything. If your sense of being blessed is tied to what you have, then it can rise and fall with your circumstances. But if it is tied to the approval of God, it stands even when your circumstances shift.

So many times we are seeking the approval and validation from so many people. We perform for it, we chase it, and we adjust ourselves to earn it. But the question worth sitting with today is this: what happens when you already have the approval from God? What does it change about how you carry yourself when the applause of people is no longer the thing you are living for?

As we begin this Rebrand Series, do not rush the text. One of the most important things we can do is slow down and hear what Jesus is saying. We are constantly in a rush, but being still allows the word to sit with you so that when you apply it, it sticks. This week we are going to park on one verse and let it rebrand the way we live.

Jesus called the meek blessed. Before we ever define meekness, we need to settle that being blessed is not about accumulation. It is about approval. When God approves of you, you are already flourishing, even before the external things catch up. Let that be the ground you stand on this week.

Blessed is not what you own. Blessed is flourishing under the approval of God.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you been measuring blessing by what you have instead of by God's approval?
2. Whose validation have you been chasing that God is inviting you to release?
3. What would change this week if you lived as someone already approved by God?

Prayer: *Father, rebrand my understanding of what it means to be blessed. Free me from measuring my life by what I own or by the approval of people. Let me flourish under Your approval alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Declaration: *I am blessed because I flourish under the approval of God, not because of what I own.*

Meek Does Not Mean Weak

Day 2 | Tuesday, July 21, 2026

Focus: *Meekness is strength that has been surrendered to God's control.*

Matthew 5:5 NKJV 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Most people hear the word meek and immediately think of someone with no strength. But the Greek word means gentle, mild, considerate, or controlled in disposition. Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness, timidity, passivity, fear, allowing people to mistreat you, or refusing to confront what is wrong. That is not what Jesus meant.

Biblical meekness is better understood as strength that has been surrendered to God's control. A meek person may possess authority, ability, intelligence, influence, and strength, but they do not use those things selfishly or recklessly. Meekness says, I have the ability to respond differently, but I have submitted my response to God. The meek person is not powerless. The meek person is powerful without needing to prove it.

Consider a trained horse. A champion racehorse is not weak. It has tremendous speed, size, stamina, and natural ability. But winning requires more than raw power. Its strength has to be trained, disciplined, and responsive to the direction of the rider. When the jockey takes the reins, the horse does not lose its power. It surrenders the direction of that power. That is meekness.

Meekness is not God removing your strength. It is God taking control of how, when, and where your strength is used. You still have the power to speak, but God directs your words. You still have the power to respond, but God governs your reaction. You still have the power to fight, but God decides which battles deserve your strength. A meek person is not powerless. A meek person is powerful enough to surrender the reins.

Meekness is not the absence of anger. It is the refusal to allow anger to become your master. Moses was described as very meek, yet he confronted Pharaoh and led a nation. Jesus described Himself as gentle and lowly, yet He confronted religious leaders and endured the cross. Meekness is not weakness. It is holy strength under divine management. It is losing your need to use your strength to prove that you are strong.

A meek person is not powerless. A meek person is powerful enough to surrender the reins.

Reflection Questions

1. Where has God given you strength that you have been using selfishly or recklessly?
2. What reaction do you need to hand over to God this week?
3. Is there a battle you are fighting that God has not assigned to your strength?

Prayer: *Father, take the reins of my strength. I surrender my words, my reactions, and my responses to You. Teach me to be powerful without needing to prove it. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Declaration: *My strength is not gone. My strength is surrendered to the control of God.*

Interrupted Reactions

Day 3 | Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Focus: *Meekness means God has interrupted your reaction.*

Matthew 5:5 NKJV 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Most people think meekness means you cannot react. Jesus teaches something different. Meekness means God has interrupted your reaction. There is a difference between a person who has no ability to respond and a person whose response has been placed under God's authority. The meek are not silent because they are weak. They are restrained because they are governed.

If the truth be told, there have been a plethora of times where if God had not held our mouths, the release from us would have let people know exactly what was up. That is not a lack of strength. That is strength held in check. Every action does not deserve your reaction. The maturity to know the difference is the fruit of meekness at work.

Meekness includes humility before God, teachability, emotional restraint, gentleness toward others, and submission to divine authority. It includes the refusal to retaliate out of pride and the ability to confront without becoming cruel. It is possible to address what is wrong without letting your flesh drive the moment. That is the interruption God brings.

Think about how much of your peace has been protected by the reactions God stopped you from having. The words you did not send. The confrontation you walked away from. The last word you decided not to have. What felt like restraint in the moment was actually God guarding your future. He interrupts your reaction so that your reaction does not cost you your inheritance.

This is the daily work of meekness. It is not a one-time decision. It is a repeated surrender that says, God, You govern this. When someone provokes you, when you are disrespected, when the temptation to prove yourself rises, meekness lets God step in between the offense and the response. Let Him interrupt you today.

Every action does not deserve your reaction. Meekness lets God interrupt.

Reflection Questions

1. What reaction is God trying to interrupt in you right now?
2. When has God's restraint in the past protected your future?
3. How can you confront what is wrong this week without becoming cruel?

Prayer: *Father, interrupt my reactions. Stand between the offense and my response. Hold my mouth and govern my emotions so that nothing I do out of pride costs me what You have assigned. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Declaration: *God has interrupted my reaction. I respond under His authority, not my flesh.*

You Do Not Have to Seize It

Day 4 | Thursday, July 23, 2026

Focus: *The meek inherit what the world tries to take by force.*

Matthew 5:5 NKJV 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Jesus said the meek will inherit the earth. To inherit means to receive an allotted possession. An inheritance is different from something you seize, steal, or achieve entirely through personal effort. It is something transferred to you because of relationship, identity, promise, or covenant. That distinction changes how you live.

Jesus is saying that the meek will not have to forcefully seize everything that belongs to them. God Himself will establish their portion. This reverses the world's system. The world says the aggressive take the earth. Jesus says the surrendered inherit it. The world teaches that the loudest, strongest, most manipulative, and most dominant people get ahead.

But Jesus teaches that ultimate possession belongs to those whose strength is submitted to God. That means you can stop fighting for what only God can establish. You do not have to elbow your way to the front. You do not have to manipulate the outcome. You do not have to become like the aggressive people around you just to keep from losing.

There is real freedom in this. When you understand that your portion is an inheritance and not a prize you have to grab, you can breathe. You can trust the timing. You can release the anxiety of watching other people seem to take what you have been waiting on. What God has assigned to you cannot ultimately be taken from you.

So today, examine the areas where you have been striving in your own strength. Where have you been trying to seize what God wants to establish? Meekness trusts the process of inheritance. It says, I will not compromise myself to get what already belongs to me. God will establish my portion, and I will receive it His way.

The aggressive seize. The surrendered inherit. What God assigns cannot be taken.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you been trying to seize what God wants to establish for you?
2. What would it look like to trust God's timing instead of forcing the outcome?
3. What are you tempted to compromise to hold on to something God already assigned you?

Prayer: *Father, I stop striving to seize what only You can establish. I trust that my portion is an inheritance secured by covenant, not a prize I must grab. Establish my portion in Your time. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Declaration: *I do not have to seize it. God establishes my portion and secures my inheritance.*

Territory With Peace

Day 5 | Friday, July 24, 2026

Focus: *The meek inherit territory with the peace to enjoy it.*

Psalm 37:11 NKJV 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

When Jesus spoke of the meek inheriting the earth, He was echoing Psalm 37. That psalm addresses the temptation to become frustrated when wicked people appear to prosper. The message is that evil may appear successful temporarily, but God ultimately establishes the righteous. Psalm 37:11 adds something crucial. The meek will delight themselves in an abundance of peace.

The Hebrew concept of peace, shalom, reaches beyond the absence of conflict. It speaks of wholeness, completeness, well-being, security, harmony, and life functioning as God intended. This is the difference between the wicked and the meek. The wicked may possess things without peace. The meek inherit territory with completeness.

There is a difference between having a platform and having peace on the platform. There is a difference between owning the house and experiencing peace in the house. There is a difference between gaining territory and being whole enough to enjoy it. It is possible to possess something without having the peace to enjoy it. The meek do not merely receive territory. They receive the capacity to live in God's peace within it.

This is why you do not have to envy what the wicked seem to have. Look carefully at what force and manipulation actually produce. They can occupy territory, but they cannot manufacture shalom. What good is a possession you cannot rest in? What good is a platform that steals your peace? God's inheritance comes with the wholeness to actually enjoy it.

So do not let the temporary success of others pull you off your path. The meek may appear to be losing now, but they will not lose in the end. What others attempt to seize through force, God will give to the meek as an inheritance, and He will add the peace that makes it worth having. Wait on the Lord and receive both the territory and the peace.

The wicked possess things without peace. The meek inherit territory with completeness.

Reflection Questions

1. Where do you have possession or position but not peace?
2. Have you been envying territory that others hold without shalom?
3. What would it mean to receive God's inheritance with the peace to enjoy it?

Prayer: *Father, I do not just want territory, I want peace on the territory. Give me the shalom that makes my inheritance whole. Keep me from envying what the wicked hold without rest. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Declaration: *God gives me territory with peace. I inherit not just the place, but the wholeness to enjoy it.*

Do Not Become Like Them

Day 6 | Saturday, July 25, 2026

Focus: *You do not have to become like the wicked to keep from losing.*

Psalm 37:9-11 NKJV 9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

As we close this week, let us bring it all together. Blessed, flourishing under the approval of God, are the meek, whose strength is surrendered and who allow God to manage their reactions. They will inherit the portion received through covenant, which God establishes, the territory that participates in God's restored rule. God secures what He assigns.

Because God establishes the inheritance, the meek have no need to manipulate. You do not have to compromise to remain relevant, attack someone else to protect your place, perform to preserve your platform, control everyone around you, become dishonest because dishonest people appear successful, or change your character to keep your territory. Whatever God assigns to you does not require you to become someone else to keep it.

The wicked may temporarily occupy territory, but temporary occupation is not permanent inheritance. You do not have to become like the wicked to keep from losing. What God assigned cannot be taken from you. The wicked may seize it temporarily, but only the meek have the covenant capacity to inherit it permanently.

So here is the charge as you head into Sunday. We do not have to match their energy. We do not have to speak their language. We do not have to use their methods. We do not have to compromise our character because it appears that compromise is working for them. That is the rebrand. Under new management, we do things God's way.

Let God manage your reaction. Let God establish your portion. Let God secure your territory. Do not become like the people you are asking God to deliver you from. This is who we are at Echo Church. No Games. No Gimmicks. Just God. In Fayetteville and beyond, we surrender the reins and trust the God who secures what He assigns.

Do not become like the people you are asking God to deliver you from.

Reflection Questions

1. Where have you been tempted to become like the wicked just to keep from losing?
2. What method or compromise is God asking you to lay down this week?
3. What does living under new management look like for you starting today?

Prayer: *Father, I will not become like the people I am asking You to deliver me from. I surrender the reins. Manage my reaction, establish my portion, and secure my territory. This is my rebrand. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Declaration: *I will not become like the wicked. God secures what He assigns, and my inheritance is permanent.*