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Weekly Letter – 1 February 2026

Matthew 5:1-12

The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth

The joke graffiti said, 'The meek shall inherit the earth – if that's OK with the rest of you...' At the moment, it looks like the meek aren't getting a look in with all the 'strong men' flexing their power and looking to take the Earth by force or finance. So what do we make of the 'beatitudes' that are the overture to the Sermon on the Mount?

Two of the themes that run through the Sermon are that God is a heavenly Father and that his love shapes the values of his Kingdom. God is our Father in heaven who notices and guides us as his children; a loving Father who listens and gives us what we need. When we do God's will, God's rule is seen and there is a taste of God's Kingdom to come. As an introduction, the beatitudes prepare us for realising that God is not like self-important earthly rulers and the marks of the Kingdom are not earthly measures of success.

We have allowed strong men to define 'meek', and now it has the feeling of being timid and weak. In the Biblical context, 'meek' means putting our strength and power at the service of God. It means not inflating our view of ourselves, and not asserting ourselves over others, but exerting ourselves for others. The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it (Ps 24:1) and God will entrust it to those who will do things his way, even if we can't say when that will be.

In the meantime, let's give 'meek' its proper meaning, and be ready to do God's will.

Simon

Sunday Morning Worship in Christ Well, and on Zoom at 10.30 am will be led Rev Simon Walking. We celebrate Communion and the Ordination and Induction of Elders.

Bible Readings: Matthew 5: 1-12; Micah 6: 6-8.

Cycle of Prayer in the Region – we will pray for Temple, Gowerton

Tuesday, 3rd - Tea and Chat - 2-4pm – Making Lavender bags

Christmas Charity Donations

Thank you to all who contributed to the Church Christmas card. £250 has been sent to the Alzheimer's Society, and £850 has been sent to Christian Aid.

Book Group – 1pm Wednesday 4th February, Christ Well

Stephen Baker, Ian Drew-Jones and Simon have been meeting to talk about a book. They are starting a new book and have agreed to open the discussion to anyone who is interested in joining. At their next meeting they will be looking at the first 3 chapters of Tom Wright's 'The Vision of Ephesians: The Task of the Church and the Glory of God' https://www.amazon.co.uk/Vision-Ephesians-Task-Church-Glory/dp/0281090653/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0 Let Simon know if you are interested, or just turn up.

GOD'S CHALLENGE

(Micah 6.1-8: Psalm 15: 1 Corinthians 1.18-31: Matthew 5.1-12)

Merciful God, we hear the word that challenges us.

From ancient times you speak it still.

It comes to us through the prophets. It confronts us in the psalms.

You plead for those left behind as others prosper: winners and losers in a world of divisions.

Hear our confessions for sins the headlines tell.

**We confess webs of injustice and exploitation: the shadows of slavery still reaching wide,
the dignity denied. We contest ways of violence and oppression;
the communities shattered by war, the lives broken.**

Hear our confession for sins we can tell ourselves.

We confess words of anger and gossip; the unkind moments that linger, the forgiveness denied.

We confess ways we turned aside; the need we never helped to meet, the promises broken.

Holy God, in Christ's name, forgive us. Lift the burden of our guilt, that we might truly live.

Renew in us the faith to follow in your way. Restore in us the hope to try again, and again. Amen.

Neil Thorogood (URC Prayer Handbook 2026)

