

## Marinating in God's Word: Matthew 5:5, Psalm 23

Where Jesus is there is blessing. It's basic to our new life in him. So we're exploring all the ways he blesses us, using his blessings in the gospels.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- What was your favorite animal when you were a kid? Why? And now as an adult (with the classic ice breaker question), what sort of animal would you like to be? And again, why?
- Jesus is compared both to a lamb and a lion (e.g., Rev. 5:5-6). What is the symbolic import of each? How did (or will) Jesus carry out God's plan in each mode?
- As followers of Jesus we get to function in both lamb and lion mode too. In the Mt. 5:5 blessing Jesus lifts up the blessing that comes to us in our "lamb" mode - meekness. Who are the meek? Is "meek" different from weak, or humble, or gentle? How so? How do we see Jesus being meek?
- Psalm 23 is everyone's favorite. And yet few if any of us would choose a sheep as our "favorite" animal. Why? We want a shepherd, but we're slow to identify with the sheep he tends. Why? What blessings come to the sheep of the Psalm 23 shepherd?
- We wouldn't expect the sheep to inherit much in this world - maybe in heaven, but for now it looks like most of the goodies go to the aggressive, the wolves, etc. Yet Jesus blesses the meek not with a heavenly inheritance, but with inheriting the earth. What could he mean? Have you experienced this yourself? How?

Next Sunday we will focus upon Matthew 5:6.