

# The Watford Word

[www.watfordchurchofchrist.org](http://www.watfordchurchofchrist.org)

## What's on

**Sunday 25 May:** 10:30 AM.

Malcolm speaking

**Sunday 01 June:** 10:30 AM.

Stefan speaking

**Monday 02 June:** Mentoring training (**NOTE change of date**)

**Sunday 08 June:** 10:30 AM. International Service

**Sunday 15 June:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

**Sunday 22 June:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

**Sunday 29 June:** 10:30 AM. Church service

**Sunday 06 July:** Outdoor service hosted by the Thames Valley churches of Christ

**Monday 7th July:** Mentoring training

**Sunday 20 July:** 10:30 AM. Dr Rolan Monje is our visiting speaker from the Manila ICOC.

**Monday 1st September:** Mentoring training

3-5 October: Young Professionals' retreat



This third Beatitude might be the most misunderstood of all. In our world—and sometimes even in our churches—meekness is often confused with weakness. But in Scripture, meekness is strength under control, rooted in trust, not fear. To understand what Jesus meant, we need to see this teaching in the larger context.

**Psalm 37 context:** Jesus didn't just pluck this idea from thin air. He echoed Psalm 37:11, a passage considered messianic and filled with hope for those who quietly trust in God's justice.

**Beatitudes context:** The order of the Beatitudes is intentional: the poor in spirit recognise their need for God, they mourn that reality, and then they become meek—humble, gentle, and surrendered.

## Meekness Redefined


The Greek word *praus* describes someone who is humble, gentle, and considerate—not someone weak or passive. Jesus himself embodied this perfectly. He was strong enough to confront injustice, but humble enough to wash feet. In 2 Corinthians 10:1, Paul appeals “by the meekness and gentleness of Christ,” linking power and restraint in a single phrase.

Too often, Christian culture defaults to celebrating “strong” leaders. There's nothing wrong with strength—but when it's not balanced by humility, it distorts everything. “Strong” can become code for control. Meekness, by contrast, trusts God enough to stay humble even when we could assert ourselves.

In Matt 11:28-30, Jesus calls himself “gentle and humble in heart” and offers rest. That gentleness was evident even when facing betrayal in John 18:11—he chose submission to the Father over retaliation.

## HOPE Sponsored Walk

Sign up at [hopeworldwide.org.uk](http://hopeworldwide.org.uk)

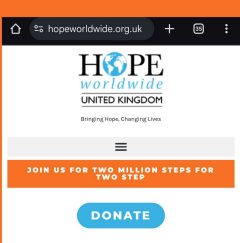


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## The Marvellous Meek

The north London congregation have asked me to speak on the beatitudes. I thought it might be helpful to share some thoughts on two of them with you this week and next.

**“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.” – Matthew 5:5**

## What Meekness Looks Like

For us, meekness means secure humility. We already possess everything in Christ (1 Cor 3:21–23), so we don't need to prove ourselves. The meek don't indulge in self-pity or retaliate when wronged (1 Pet 2:21–25). They don't throw their weight around, even when they have influence or power—think Moses, called the meekest man on earth, yet chosen to lead a nation.

Meekness also means putting others first. Gal 6:1 reminds us to restore others gently. Meekness is relational—it helps us connect with people as fellow humans under God, not as competitors.

## The Promise: Inheriting the Earth

The blessing isn't just for now—it's a coming vision (Isaiah 65–66 & Rev 21:1, a renewed earth). Jesus promises that those who walk in meekness will reign with him in that future. There's also a present reward: contentment. The meek are satisfied (2 Cor 6:10, Phil 4:11) because they're not driven by ego or ambition. When God lifts up the meek (1 Peter 5:6), there's no danger of pride. They've already let go of self-importance.

## Living the Beatitude

Ask yourself: How would your relationships change if you lived this way? What would your week look like if you trusted God's justice more than your own strength?

You can explore this further by listening to the song 'Meekness and Majesty'. Even better, study Moses' life—see how God worked through his quiet strength. Because in the kingdom of God, the gentle are the ones who change the world.

Your brother, Malcolm

## Watford Contribution Details

**Church bank account:** Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

**Sort Code:** 401915

**Account Number:** 04759613

Charity number : 1207942

## This Week's Quiz

Any ideas what this was used for, where it is, and which Apostle it is associated with?

Answers next week.



## Answers to last week's quiz

This is a heel bone from the first century CE. I took the photograph on a visit to the Israel Antiquities Museum in Jerusalem in 2018.



The iron nail has been smashed through the bone to fix the unhappy victim to a cross. Yes, this is the heel of a crucified man. Normally, the nails were pulled out after death for reuse. This one was too bent to be withdrawn.

What you are looking at is exactly what happened to Jesus. What a wonderful Saviour we have!

## Watford Media

You might like to know that podcasts from the Watford church podcast feed were downloaded **207** times in April. The most popular episode was "Jesus and his Mum have fun!" - the Mothering Sunday sermon.

