

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 32)

ATTITUDES OF RADICAL DISCIPLES. The Sermon on the Mount opens with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-16). These attitudes are essential to communicating the spirit of Christ. They, in fact, are the spirit of Christ. The beatitudes are critical in communicating the transforming power of the Gospel. Sometimes the Gospel is not at once received, not so much for the truths presented, but because of the attitudes of those who proclaim it. Godly attitudes enhance the Gospel message by demonstrating what a Christian is as well as what a Christian believes. These attitudes are necessary to passing on the revelation from God which disciples are to receive and guard. The beatitudes are radical attitudes. They are fundamentally different than the attitudes of a natural person. The beatitudes are contrary to human nature; they oppose the wisdom of the natural man. Attitudes are an integral part of a person's character, good and bad. Jesus deals with what a disciple should be, before He deals with what a disciple should do. Attitudes precede actions. That is the logical and spiritual order of discipleship. Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones stated, "The Christian gospel places its primary emphasis on being, rather than doing. The gospel puts a greater weight upon our attitude than upon our actions." Christian character is the result of truth changing the inner man. "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20 KJV).