

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 34)

### ATTITUDES OF RADICAL DISCIPLES (CONTINUED)

Each beatitude is preceded by the word "blessed." It literally means fortunate or happy. MacArthur says, "This term appears in the Septuagint...and in the New Testament to describe the kind of happiness that comes only from God." He continues: "The Beatitudes demonstrate that the way to heavenly blessedness is opposite the worldly path people normally follow to find happiness." Jesus taught that happiness does not come from this world. The happy person is the one who forsakes the things of the world for eternal gain. The beatitudes are not a new form of the Ten Commandments. They are eight beautiful attitudes that should characterize a disciple. A radical disciple should be recognizable by his attitudes. The purpose of the beatitudes for people to recognize us as followers of Jesus. They are, in truth, the attitudes Jesus demonstrated while He was on earth. These are the attitudes of a truly happy Christian. Sanders says, "The eight qualities presented in the beatitudes are a description of one man, the same man, the ideal citizen of the Kingdom in his psychological and spiritual development. The beatitudes are radical. Furthermore, they are impossible. In the impossible rests a principle. Whenever Jesus tells us to do something impossible we are to obey and trust the Holy Spirit to do the impossible in us and through us. Martin Lloyd Jones says, "If you find yourself arguing with Sermon on the Mount at any point, it means either that there is something with you or else that your interpretation is wrong." Oswald Chambers believed that no one can interpret the beatitudes, as well as the entire Sermon on the Mount, without a relationship with the Holy Spirit. "The Holy Ghost alone can expound the teachings of Jesus Christ. The one abiding method of interpreting the teachings of Jesus is the Spirit of Jesus in the heart of a believer applying His principles to the particular circumstances in which he is placed. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind, says Paul, that you may make out what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God...The Sermon on the Mount is a statement of the life we will live when the Holy Spirit is having His way with us."