

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 37)

**SPIRITUAL SORROW.** “Blessed are they that mourn” (Matthew 5:4). Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones expressed, “This saying condemns the apparent laughter, joviality and happiness of the world by pronouncing a woe upon it.” The attitude of sorrow is spiritual in its meaning. This is not talking about natural sorrow. It is grief over offending God and violating His moral laws. This sorrow refers to the conviction of sin. It is the same sorrow Paul spoke of. “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death” (II Corinthians 7:9-10). Spiritual sorrow is a by-product of spiritual poverty. It is an acute conviction of sin and lust. Hendrickson comments, “People mourn for many reasons: sickness, pain, bereavement, material loss, wounded pride, etc. In the present context, however a basically different kind of mourning is in view. It is the mourning of those who recognize their spiritual bankruptcy (first beatitude) and are – or are presently going to be – hunger and thirsting for righteousness (fourth beatitude), that is emphasized.” “Mourn” is a strong word. It is used of the lamenting over the dead. Isaiah mourned when he cried, “Woe is me, for I am undone, for I am a man of unclean lips...” (Isaiah 6:5). Sorrow for sins is necessary for holiness. The work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification delivers us from the power of sin. Spiritual sorrow is a grief over our failures and faults. It is prerequisite to the inner change that transforms the radical disciple. The blessing associated with this beatitude is: “They shall be comforted.” This refers to the comfort of God mediated through Jesus Christ.