

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 41)

SPIRITUAL MOTIVATION. "Blessed are the pure in heart" (Matthew 5:8). Purity is a condition of the heart. The heart is the central organ of the body. The life-blood flows from the heart to the other major organs of the body. When the heart is damaged or the blood flow is restricted the whole body is in danger. When the heart stops, the body dies. In the Bible the heart is a metaphor for the spirit of a man. The spirit (heart) of a man is the center of his personality. The heart is the mainspring of spiritual activity. It is where Christ's word abides (John 15:7). An attitude is a position of mind, but it proceeds from the heart. Attitudes flow out of the infrastructure of human personality. The beatitudes are fundamentally different from the attitudes of the world. They are radical attitudes. Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it" (Jeremiah 17:9)? We are not capable of knowing our own motives. That requires the Spirit of God and the Word of God. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit...and is discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). The Word discerns good and evil in a disciple's heart. Purity of heart is a purity of the heart's intentions. The blessing: "They shall see God." Every saint will see God in Heaven. But this blessing is in advance of Heaven. They will see by faith. "By faith he (Moses) forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27). "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1 KJV).