

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 42)

SPIRITUAL RECONCILIATION. "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5:9). A peacemaker is not a peace-lover. He is not a pacifist. He is not a person who evades truth to keep peace. He is not one who wants peace at any price. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones describes a peacemaker as: "...one about whom we can say two things. Passively, we can say that he is peaceable, for a quarrelsome person cannot be a peacemaker. Then, actively, this person must be pacific, he must be one who makes peace actively. He is not content to 'let sleeping dogs lie,' he is not concerned about maintaining the status quo. He desires peace, and he does all he can to produce peace and to main it." A peacemaker is at peace with God. He has been reconciled to God through the blood of Christ's cross (Colossian 3:20). A peacemaker understands the price for peace and the need for peace. As a peacemaker, Paul first understood Christ's death as a means of reconciling lost men and women to Himself (II Corinthians 5:19). He then understood his own ministry of reconciliation. "Now then we are ambassadors of Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: "We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God" (II Corinthians 5:20). When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, he urged them to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). To do this requires "lowliness, and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2). Radical disciples not only keep the peace, they make peace with others. They encourage those in disagreement to make peace with each other. Being a peacemaker is impossible in the flesh. Human natures desires to get even, to get others on your side, and to hang on to strife. One of the major concerns of peacemakers is knowing when and when not to speak. In this regard, when a disciple does the opposite of what his emotions are telling him to do, he usually does the right thing. The blessing: "They shall be called the children of God." Being a peace maker extends to our enemies. Jesus said, "Love your enemies...that you may be sons of your father (Matthew 5:44-45). The blessing for loving your enemies is the same as the blessing for being a peacemaker.