

A RADICAL ROAD

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

DISCUSSION SHEETS

Aim: 'to learn to be guided in life by clear directions'

COURSE PLAN

Jesus' commands taken mainly from the gospel of Matthew 5 to 7
(and Luke 6)

Title: A Radical Road (48 instructions)

Aim: to learn to be guided in life by clear directions

sample below for preview

SESSION 1 - **guided by joy**
(Mt 5:10-12 with Lk 6:17-23)

for the rest of the course contact us

SESSION 2 - **guided by significance**
(Mt 5:13-16)

SESSION 3 - **guided by reconciliation**
(Mt 5:21-26)

SESSION 4 - **guided by God's institution**
(Mt 5:27-32)

SESSION 5 - **guided by from retaliation**
(Mt 5:38-42 with Lk 6:27-36)

SESSION 6 - **guided by sincerity** (Mt 6:1-18)

SESSION 7 - **guided by from materialism**
(Mt 6:19-34)

SESSION 8 - **guided by mercy**
(Mt 7:1-12 with Lk 6:36-42)

SESSION 9 - **guided by perseverance**
(Mt 7:13-27 with Lk 6:43-49)

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SESSION 1 - guided by joy

① **Read** Matthew 5 verses 10 to 12 with Luke 6:17-23

② **to start:** (please note: questions in bold & underlined
suggested answers in italics and [])

- **what is Matthew 5 verses 10 to 12 about?** (check verses 1 to 12)
- the first (v.3) and the last beatitudes (v.10) make reference to the **Kingdom of God** so it can be concluded that the people displaying the 8 unusual features already belong to this kingdom (not trying to get in by these 'good works')
- **how can the word 'blessed' be better translated?**
- **what else can each reason be taken as?**
- **what is especially encouraging about the last beatitude (v.10)?**
- to make sure the disciples do not miss the point, Matthew reports Jesus making it **personal** and **warning** his disciples [v.11 = 'blessed are you ...']
- **what is also surprising to say the least in verse 12?**
it is also the only one where Jesus demands **a reaction**:
= 'Rejoice and be glad' ('leap for joy' Lk.6:23)
- if **joy** is expected by Jesus following such adverse circumstances, would he not anticipate it at all other times?

③ **JOY**

- the news of Jesus described as 'the good news of great joy' (Luke 2:10)
- confirmed in the Gospels, in Acts, in history and maybe in your experience (remember your conversion?)

③ (joy continued)

- **is it meant to last?** Is the Christians life meant to be a joyful one? What would you say looking at some Christians?
- **what do the Scriptures say?**
 - * do you think heaven as a joyful place? see Luke 15
 - * do you think of Jesus as 'joyful'? see John 15:11;
 - * what is the Holy Spirit's influence in our lives?
see Gal.5:22, Rom.14:17, 1 Thes.1:6
 - * the apostle's wishes for the Roman Christians; Rom.15:13
 - * idea of 'rejoicing' 14 times in 4 chapters of Philipians:
1:4, 18 (x2), 25; 2:2, 17, 18, 28, 29: 3:1; 4:1, 4(x2), 10
 - * as seen in Mat.5:12 not just when all has gone well:
see also James 1:2-4, 1 Pet.4:12-13
- **what is then the conclusion from the Scriptures?**
- **how is possible to be joyful people ?**
 - * see Phil.4:4 ?
 - * see Rom.12:12?
 - * see Luke 10:20?

④ **to sum up:** counting on the help of the Holy Spirit to ...

- not just wait for people & circumstances to turn good in order to rejoice
- force ourselves to think about
 - God Himself,
 - what He has done for us,
 - what He is doing,
 - what He will do,
- learn to rejoice whatever we have been through