

# A RADICAL ROAD

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

## AUTONOMOUS STUDIES

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

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

**SESSION 7** - **guided away 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 - to be guided to joy

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

#### ② to start

- **what are verses 10-12?** (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')
- **what does 'blessed' mean?**
- **why are they declared blessed?**
- this is especially encouraging concerning the last beatitude (v.10) as it concerns the 'astonishing' characteristic of '**being persecuted**'
- **what Jesus meant by 'persecution'?**
- **what is the grounds for the persecution?**
- 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 the response Jesus demands in v.12?**
- 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 of heaven as a joyful place?**  
read Luke 15; note vv.7, 10, 31
  - \* **do you think of Jesus as 'joyful'?** see John 15:11;  
what do you think the disciples' reaction was, 'yes please' or 'no thanks'?
  - \* **what is the influence we need to let the Holy Spirit have 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 Philippians:  
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 the conclusion?**
- **how is possible to be joyful people?**

#### 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