

A RADICAL ROAD

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

NOTES FOR TEACHING

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 - guided by joy

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

② to start

- verses 10-12 are part of a description of people displaying 8 different characteristics **declared 'blessed'** (the beatitudes, M.5:3-12) which are the start of a longer message Jesus gave early on in his ministry, the 'Sermon on the Mount' (Mt.5-7)
- 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')
- the word '**blessed**' can be better translated '**enviably fortunate**' (Amplified Version) rather than just 'happy'
- each beatitude mentions the **reason** for being declared 'blessed', even when not considered in a very 'happy and enviable' situation at the time
- each reason can be taken as **God's promise** of a future & direct **permanent result** in His eternal Kingdom, over compensating and rewarding any loss
- this is especially encouraging concerning the last beatitude (v.10) as it concerns the 'astonishing' characteristic of '**being persecuted**'
- v.11 reports what Jesus meant by 'persecution' [see also Lk.6:22]
- please note the **grounds** for the persecution = 'because of righteousness' v.11 and 'because of me' v.12 (see also 1 Pet.3:13-17, 4:14-16)
- 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 ...']
- it is also the only one where Jesus demands **a reaction**, v.12 = 'Rejoice and be **glad**' ('leap for joy' Lk.6:23): surprising to say the least!!!?
- 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 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
 - * **the conclusion** is from the Scriptures that yes, there will be moments of suffering & sadness! But generally God wants Christians to be joyful people
- **how is possible to be joyful people ?** not just relying on people & circumstances but learning to focus elsewhere;
 - * see Phil.4:4 = '**in the Lord**' (thinking about God helps us to rejoice)
 - * see Rom.12:12 = '**in hope**' (remember Matt.5:12 = 'reward', thinking about what is waiting for us, like in the other 'beatitudes')
 - * see Luke 10:20 = thinking about **what God has & is doing for us** that has eternal dimension

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