



TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE CRESCENT

BIBLE TEACHER

DERICK BINGHAM B.A.

There IS an **ALTERNATIVE**

- *Studies In The Sermon On The Mount* -

TUESDAY, 14TH JANUARY 1992

Subject: 'The Richest Self-Fulfillment Possible'

Matthew 5:3-12

A portrait of the Christian:

- (a) 'Happy are the poor in spirit.' This is ultimately a person's attitude towards him or herself.
- (b) 'Happy are those who mourn'. This is not the sorrow of the bereavement but the sorrow of repentance.
- (c) 'Happy are the meek.' This attitude is best summed up in Paul's words, 'Having nothing yet possessing all things.'
- (d) 'Happy are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.' This shows that the supreme ambition of the Christian should be spiritual and not material possessions.
- (e) 'Happy are the merciful.' This implies that to receive mercy and to show mercy belong indissolubly together.
- (f) 'Happy are the pure in heart.' This refers primarily to sincerity. There must be no hypocrisy, no play-acting, no ulterior motive.
- (g) 'Happy are the peacemakers.' This is a clear sequence of thought from purity of heart because one of the most frequent causes of conflict is intrigue, while openness and sincerity are essential to true reconciliation.
- (h) 'Happy are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake.' This is a double beatituded (v10 and v11). This condition is a normal mark of Christian discipleship.

'I have read of the parade of boys in which everyone was in step except one youngster. It was discovered that under his coat he carried a transistor radio, and was marching to other music from a thousand miles away! The Christian is in step with the drumbeats of another world.'

- VANCE HAVNER