



# Contemplative Outreach

## Spiritual Journey with Thomas Keating

### Part 4 Tape 23(a)



**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.”**

Between the ages of four and seven we develop mythic membership consciousness and take on the values of our surrounding culture and our peers. But this is a very limited level of reasoning and consciousness. It is influenced by bias, prejudice, illusion, the false-self and the programmes for happiness. Racist attitudes are a case in point. To respond as adults to the gospel, we have to be able to question these values and take a personal responsibility for our attitudes towards God, people, the earth and the great social problems of our time.

#### **The Innocent and Rights**

Do the innocent have rights? What happens when those rights come into conflict with the the agendas of big business or governments or world powers? What happens when government passes an unjust law? Who is responsible for the starving and impoverished millions?

**The way nations solve their problems  
is destructive of the innocent**

Resolving problems by violence is inhuman. Spirituality could provide the necessary perspective towards a more human approach to world problems, but, though the major world religions share the great human values, they do not have a forum to effectively challenge world problems.

**The role of world religions is to speak as one voice  
about the source of all that is**

The mental egoic state of consciousness demands of us greater responsibility and creative and positive action and as we move on towards the intuitive level of consciousness *we become even more clear on the human necessity for harmony, negotiation, forgiveness and compassion.*

**Jesus speaks of showing mercy  
as the greatest wisdom**

It takes courage, or, fortitude to walk away from our preconceived ideas and our peer group. It takes personal responsibility under the inspiration of the Spirit. A person of prayer is “... evolving into personal responsibility and a sensitivity not only to act in a human way, but under the higher gifts of the Spirit which give the energy to work, not just to accept what is, but to change what is unjust.”