

A Spiritual Attitude Assessment

1. When was a time you were destitute or helpless?

v20 "...Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God."

Matt. 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- Spiritually Poor: *ptōchos* - 1. reduced to beggary, begging, asking alms 2. destitute of wealth, influence, position, honour
 - To be spiritually poor means understanding you are helpless and powerless over your spiritual state. This puts you in a state where you're in dire need of God's help because you can't fix it yourself.
 - That place of destitute & helplessness is where we start spiritually before the Lord
- Before we can gain the Kingdom of God we must recognize our spiritual poverty and our complete and utter need for Christ.

2. When was a time you would have done anything for a drink or food?

v21 "Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled..."

Matt 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."

- Hunger & Thirst: Having a deep desire to meet essential needs.
 - Righteousness - *dikaïosynē* state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God
 - Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are promised to be filled.
 - Christ is what makes us righteous and meets that hunger and thirst - 2 Cor 5:21 "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

3. When was a time you were grieving or full of sorrow?

v21 "...Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh."

Matt 5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted."

- Weeping & Mourning: Of our sins.
 - We are to mourn and be sorrowful of our sins - James 4:8-10
 - Sorrow over sin doesn't always result in repentance and salvation. Only Godly sorrow does. - 2 Cor 7:9-10
 - After Godly sorrow that leads to repentance and salvation we have true joy and the best comforter. Comforter = John 14:26 Joy = Gal 5:22

4. When was a time you were slandered, mocked, or reviled for a belief?

v22-23 "Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake. 23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets."

Matt 5:11-12 *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*

- We should expect persecution - 2 Tim 3:12 *“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”*
- Expecting and enduring persecution doesn't mean we should live with a victim mentality.
 - We are to rejoice for the reward is great.
 - Do we/would we rejoice in suffering for the sake of Christ?

5. What is a way you desire instant earthly gratification?

v24-26 *“But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. 25 Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep. 26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.”*

- Earthly Gratification over Spiritual well being
 - Those who are concerned with pleasing the flesh will suffer the consequences - Rom 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
 - Those who live in sin support the wicked and persecute the Goldy - Rom 1:29-32 *“being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”*