

1. What are the accomplishments in your life that you are most proud of? How does your sense of accomplishment affect how you view yourself? How is that consistent or inconsistent with the message typically taught in 21st Century American culture?
2. Read Matthew 5:1–3. What does Jesus mean by the word “blessed”? How is this the same or different from our concept of happiness?
3. Jesus says in Matthew 5:3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” What possibilities are there for defining what it means to be poor? What does the qualification of being poor *in spirit* tell us about Jesus’ intention for the phrase?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-4:5. What indicators in this text are there for Paul’s appreciation and identification of his own identity? What does Paul’s example teach us about the importance of self-forgetfulness?
5. Spend a couple of minutes taking a personal inventory of what makes you blessed. Ask God for wisdom and courage to renounce the pursuit of his blessings through your own merit, and instead worship Him for providing all you need.