

What Manner of Spirit You Are

Objective:

To consider what manner of spirit we are.

References:

Holy Scripture

Scripture Verse:

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma” Ephesians 5:1-2

Lesson Guidelines:

- ✠ In the Book of **Luke 9:55-56**, the Lord Jesus rebuked James and John when they asked Him to command fire to come down from heaven and burn a village for the Samaritans. He said to them “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” James and John knew the scriptures, but they did not understand the spirit of the Lord Jesus. Anger and vengeance are not His way. The Lord Jesus knew that we will misunderstand the commandment “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth” . It was given for judges; not for people. What is the Lord Jesus’ spirit? It is to love all people, Samaritans as well as Jews; to respect their right to believe or not believe in Him; to take rejection without retaliation; to deal patiently with those who do not believe in Him. Make no mistake, Judgment will come, but not until the number is full (**Rev. 6:11**).
- ✠ As Christians, let’s be reminded of what our purpose is: The Lord Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: *‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’* **Mark 12:29-31** There is no other commandment greater than these.” God desires for ALL to be saved and come to the knowledge of Him (**1 Tim 2:4**). Our enemies are not God’s enemies—He sees them as lost children.
- ✠ The first thing to remember is that any love we have for others, to be of everlasting value, needs to flow from the source of all love. When we seek God first, we are filled with all we have need of to love others. If we are merely relying on our own good will, we and those around us will be sorely disappointed.
- ✠ Let’s look at practical ways to express what manner of spirit we REALLY are:
- ✠ **Micah 6:8** He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?
- ✠ **Is 58:6-** Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke
- ✠ **Matt 25:34-40** Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when

did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’

- ✠ **1 Cor 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- ✠ Finally and most importantly, to best exemplify what manner of spirit we are, we are to forgive! Quite possibly the hardest thing for one to do—and yet, we are told only if we forgive will we be forgiven! Being able to forgive truly diagnoses how we view ourselves before God and whether we understand our own sin that He took. It is ok if forgiveness is at times difficult –it is here we need to cry out for God’s grace to perform it.
- ✠ St. John Chrysostom said “ Humility is acquired by acts of humility and love by acts of love”
- ✠ **Our purpose in life is to enjoy and abide with our Creator and in doing this, entice as many people as possible to know Him as well. We are blessed to be a blessing—we are to be different from others—we are to understand to always remember what manner of spirit we are.**