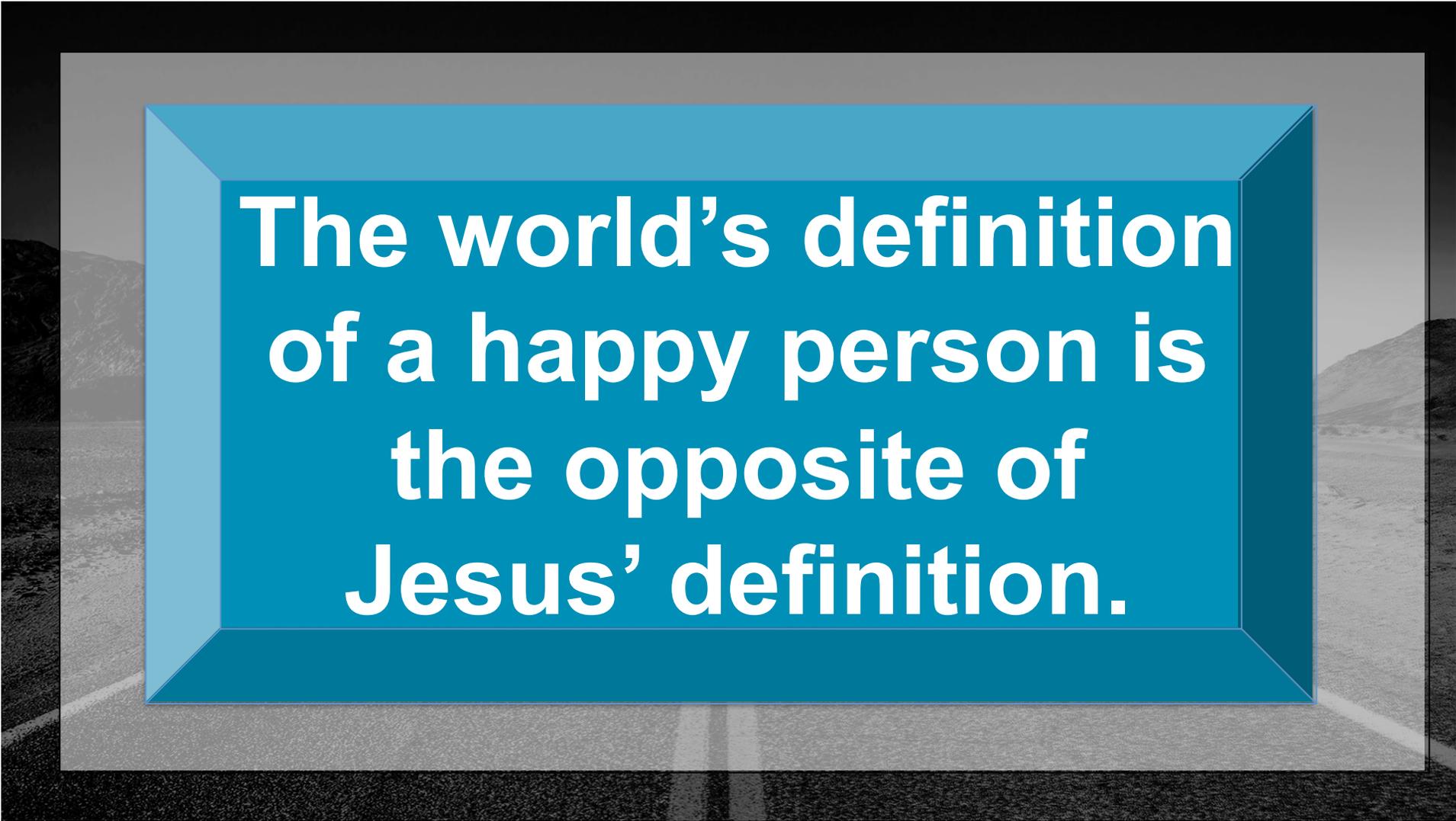


CHARACTER OF A LEADER
HAPPY ARE THE HARASSED



GATHERING OF MEN | APRIL 19, 2017
THE TOLSON GROUP . COM



**The world's definition
of a happy person is
the opposite of
Jesus' definition.**



**Before something can
happen through you it has
to happen to you.**

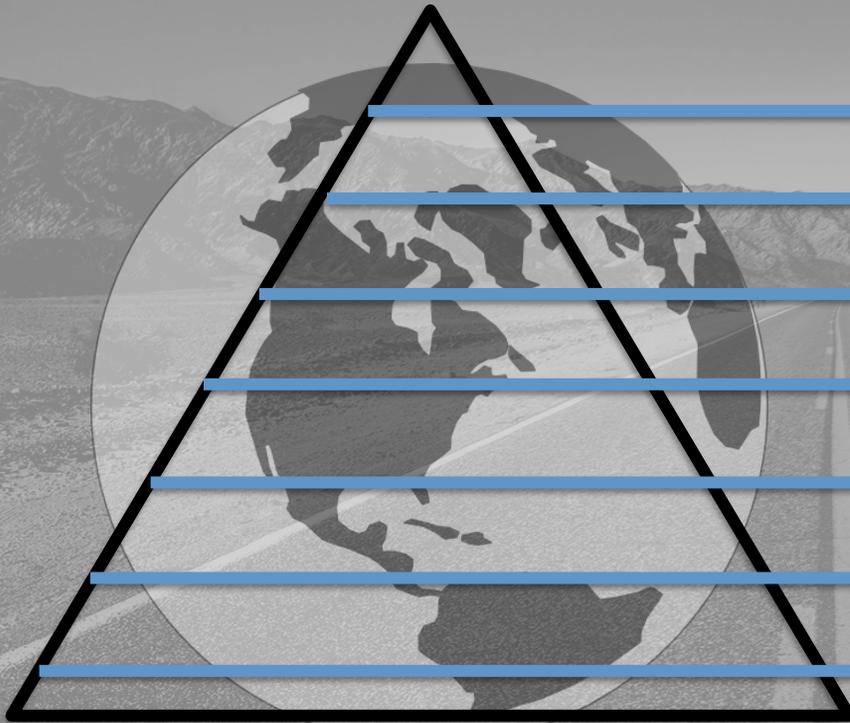


In Matthew 5:3-12

Jesus deals with the attitudes that
He wants to develop in
His kingdom people.

The Kingdom of God

KING



***Kingdom People**

***Kingdom Principles**

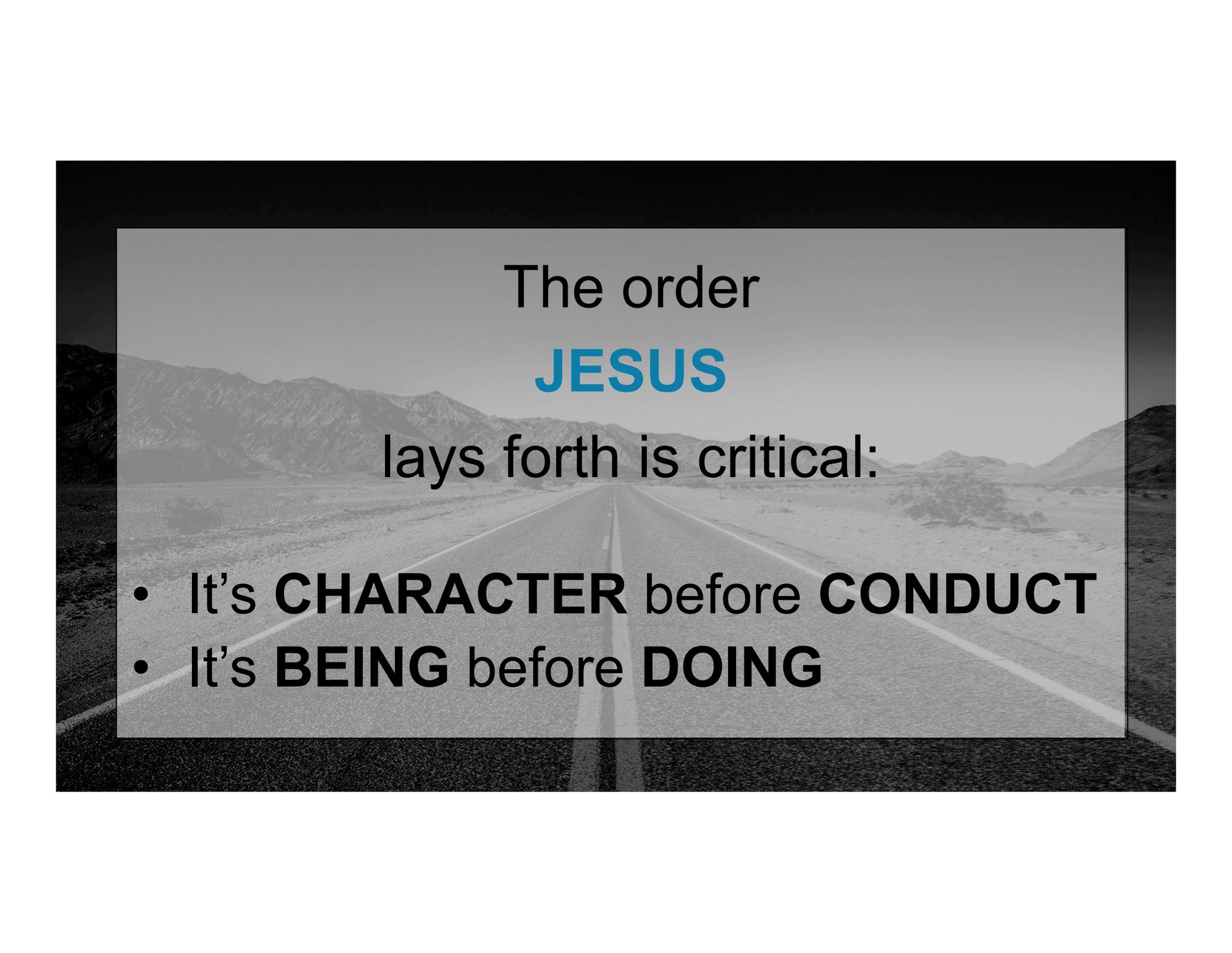
***Kingdom Character**

***Kingdom Attitude**

***Kingdom Living**

***Kingdom Influence**

***Kingdom Benefits**

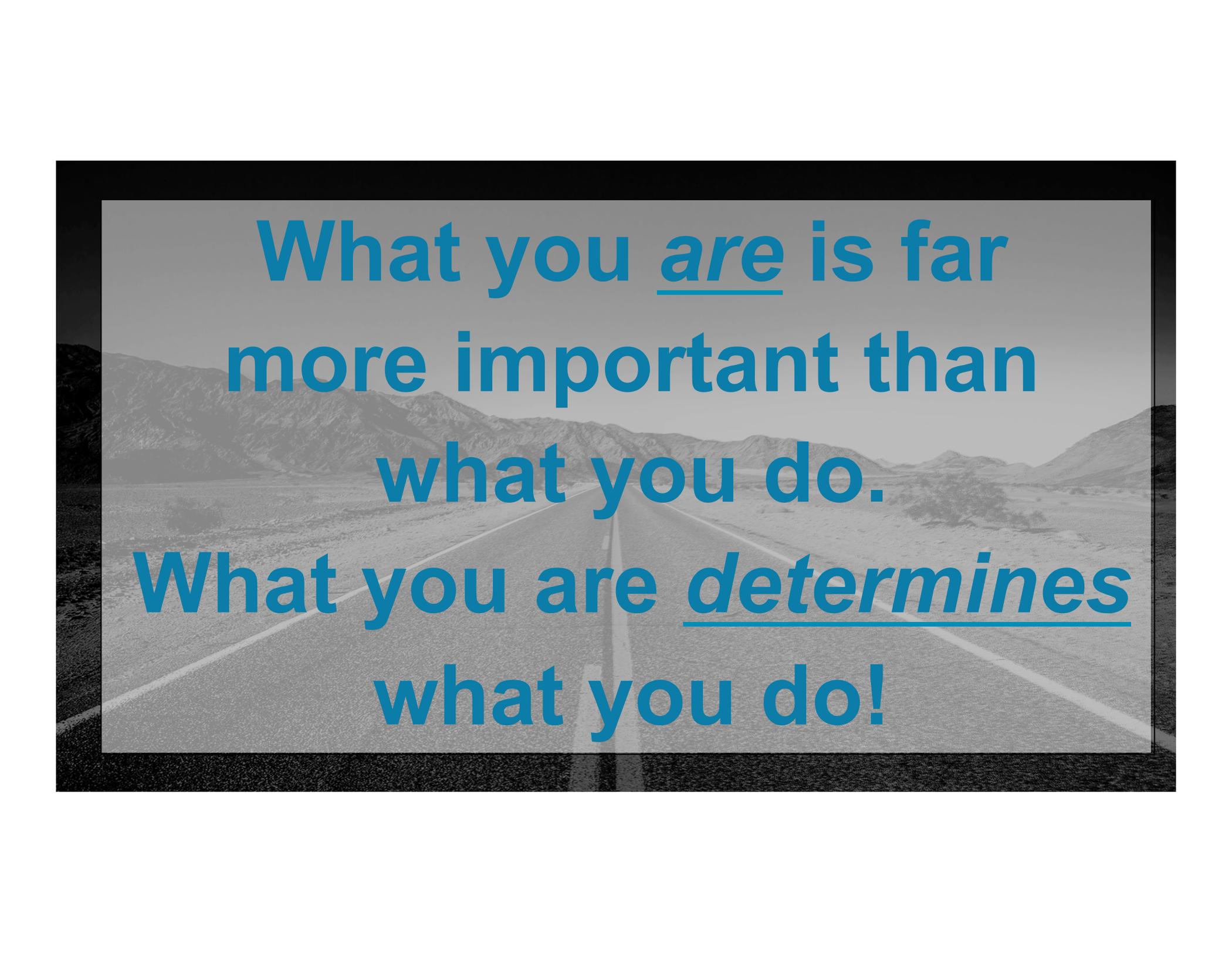


The order

JESUS

lays forth is critical:

- It's **CHARACTER** before **CONDUCT**
- It's **BEING** before **DOING**



**What you are is far
more important than
what you do.**

**What you are determines
what you do!**



HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

BY BEING DIFFERENT!



THE NEW PLAN IS

THE NEW PERSON



8 Secrets of Spiritual Success

Spiritual Secret #1

Matthew 5:3

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is The Kingdom of Heaven...”

Spiritual Secret #2

Matthew 5:4

“Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.”

Spiritual Secret #3

Matthew 5:5

“Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.”

Spiritual Secret #4

Matthew 5:6

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

Spiritual Secret #5

Matthew 5:7

“Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.”

Spiritual Secret #6

Matthew 5:8

“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.”



Spiritual Secret #7

Matthew 5:9

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
will be called sons of God.”

Spiritual Secret #8

Matthew 5:10-12

“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”

Spiritual Secret #8

- What does the Bible say about persecution?
 - I Peter 3:14, 4:12-14
 - II Timothy 3:12
 - Philippians 1:29
 - I Thessalonians 3:3-4



If you live out the first 7
BE-ATTITUDES
you will be persecuted.



The personification of the

BE-ATTITUDES

is

Jesus Christ.

THE RESULT – DEATH!

Spiritual Secret #8

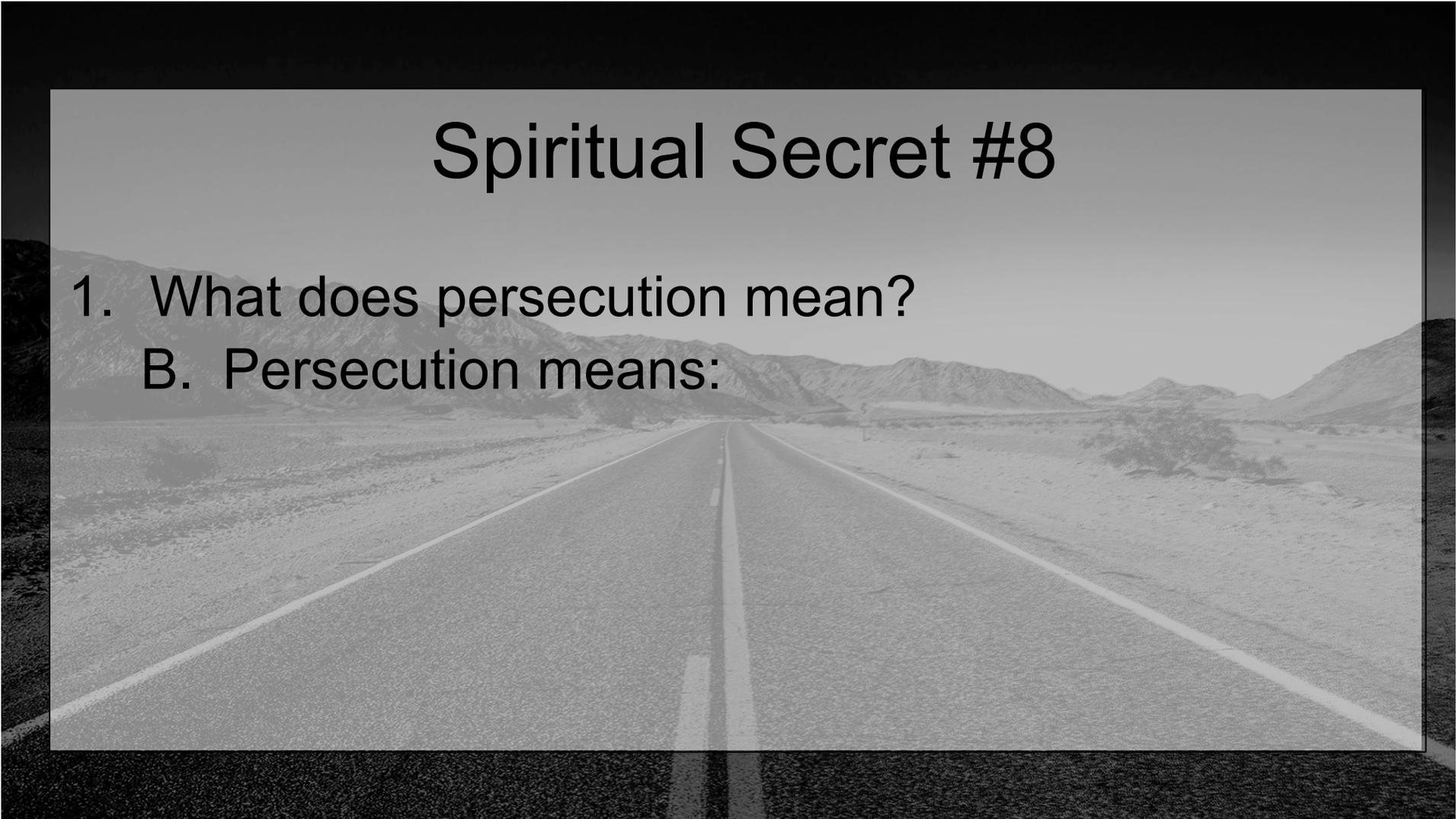
1. What does persecution mean?

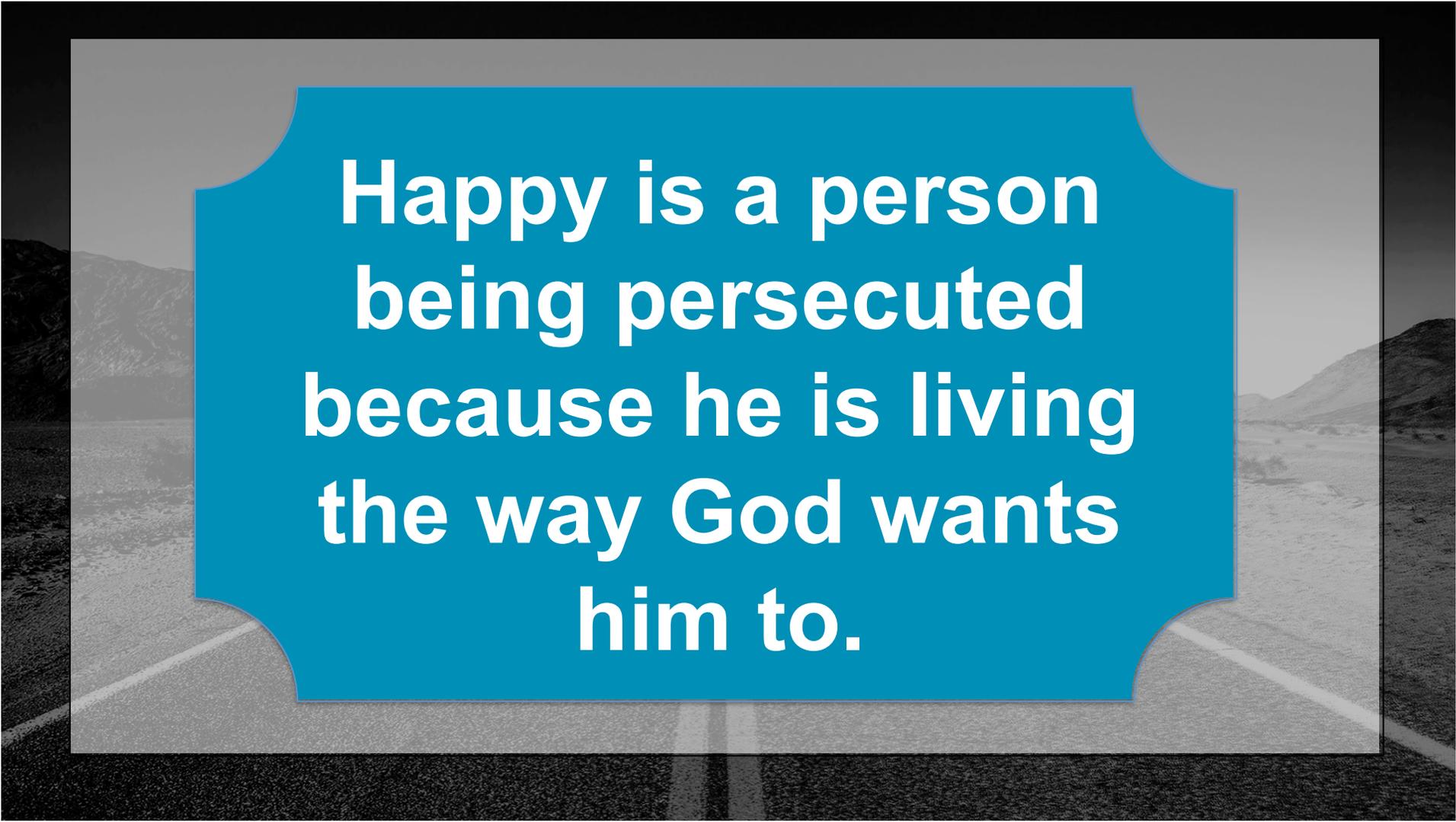
A. Persecution does not mean:

- Persecuted for being a nuisance...
- Persecuted for wrong doing... (1 Peter 4:15)
- Persecuted for being fanatical.
- Persecuted for following a cause...

Spiritual Secret #8

1. What does persecution mean?
 - B. Persecution means:





**Happy is a person
being persecuted
because he is living
the way God wants
him to.**

Spiritual Secret #8

1. What does persecution mean?

B. Persecution means:

- James 1:2-4
- I Peter 5:10

Spiritual Secret #8

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Spiritual Secret #8

1 Peter 5:10

In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

Spiritual Secret #8

2. How will we be harassed?

Matthew 5:11

“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.”

Spiritual Secret #8

1. How will we be harassed?

A. The specifics

1) We will be persecuted

- “Persecuted” ... (dioko)
 - To pursue
 - To chase
 - To harass
 - To treat in an evil manner

Spiritual Secret #8

2) We will be insulted

- “Insult”
 - Matthew 11:19

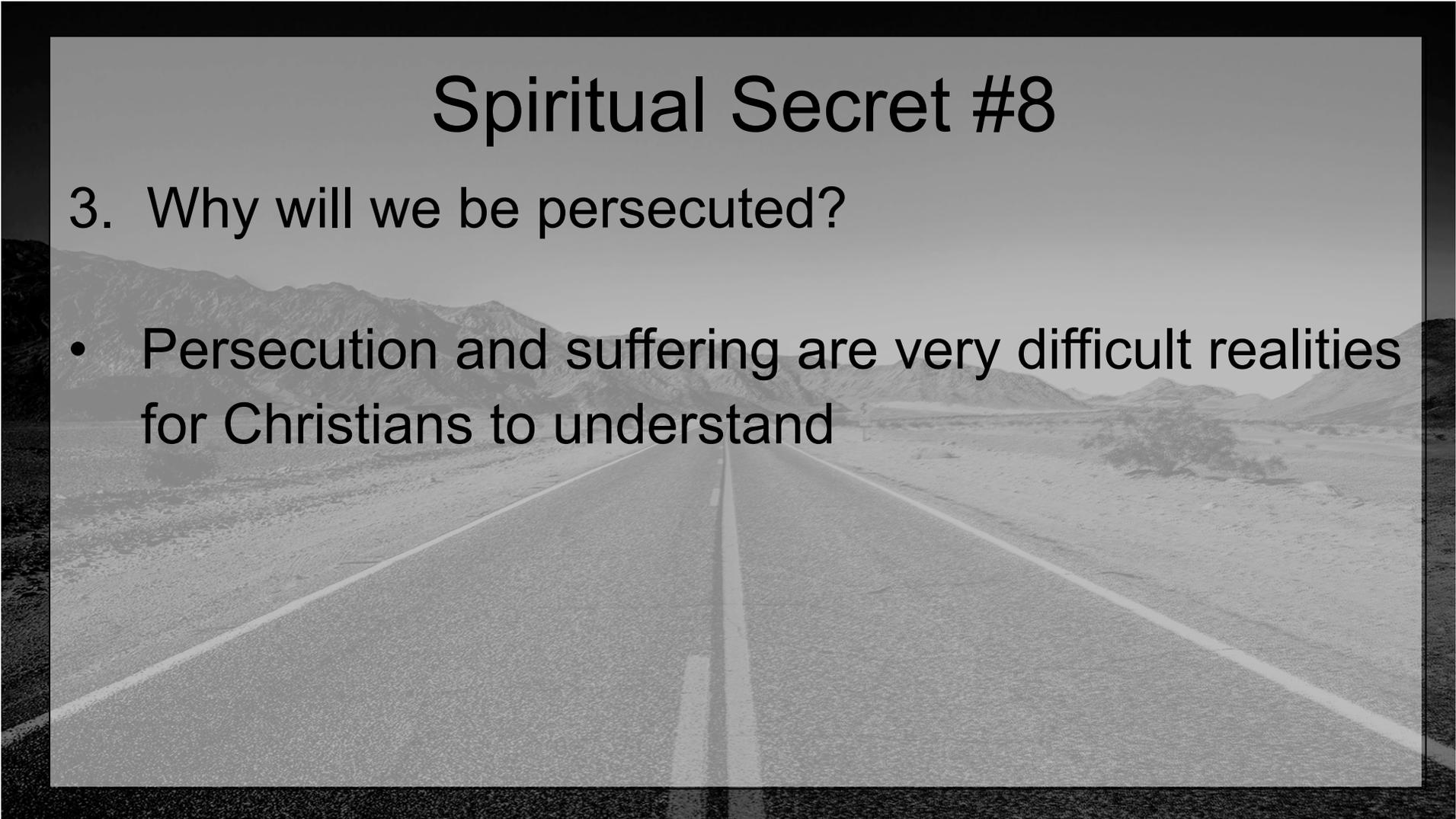
3) We will be falsely accused

- Jesus is speaking of slander
- Slander is when people accuse you of something that you’ve never said or done.

Spiritual Secret #8

3. Why will we be persecuted?

- Persecution and suffering are very difficult realities for Christians to understand





***Suffering is a stubborn
fact of a fallen world.***

Spiritual Secret #8

3. Why will we be persecuted?

- Persecution and suffering are very different realities for Christians to understand
- Persecution and suffering comes to everyone, without discrimination.

Spiritual Secret #8

3. Why will we be persecuted?

- Not all suffering has apparent value.
Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:10-12 what the right causes are to be persecuted.

Spiritual Secret #8

3. Why will we be persecuted?

A. *“Because of righteousness (v. 10)*

B. *“Because of me” (v. 11)*

○ *The world will hate you if you truly follow Christ.*

John 15:18-19

C. *Because of the rejection of Christ’s standard.*

Spiritual Secret #8

4. How can we avoid persecution?

A. Approve the world's standards

- Be proud – don't admit your needs.
- Be tough – don't mourn.
- Be a "know-it-all" – not meek.
- Be a grabber – not a giver
- Be cold-hearted – not merciful.
- Be good – but not proud
- Be a truce maker – not a peacemaker

Spiritual Secret #8

4. How can we avoid persecution?
- B. Accept the world's values.
 - C. Live like a non-Christian.
 - D. Don't tell people they need Christ.
 - E. Tell people there are many ways to God.
 - F. Don't take a stand for Christ.

Spiritual Secret #8

4. How can we avoid persecution?

G. Don't ever let people know what you really believe

H. Become like everybody else around you.

Spiritual Secret #8

5. How should we respond to being harassed?
(vv. 10, 12)

“REJOICE AND BE GLAD!”

WHY?

Spiritual Secret #8

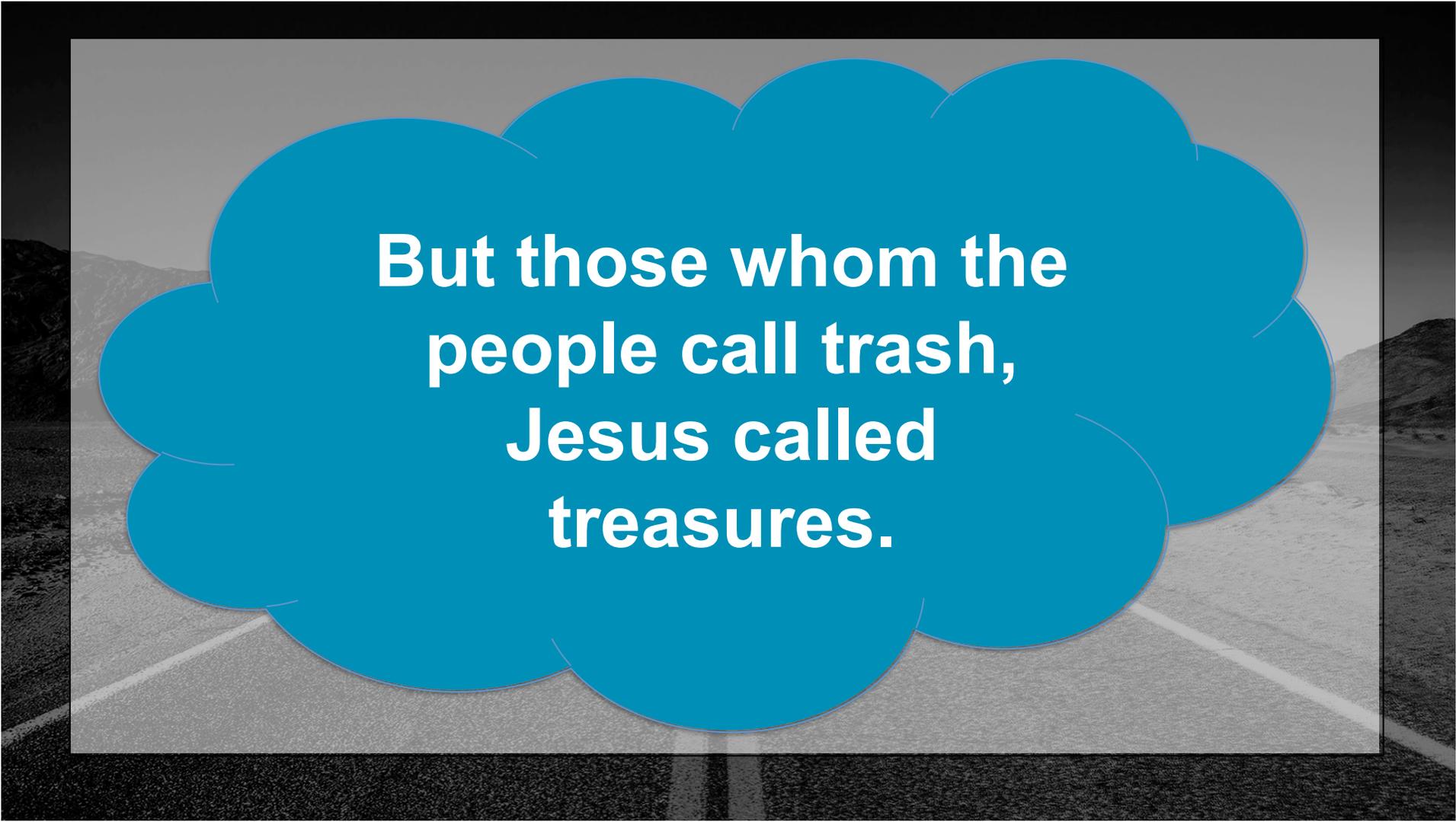
5. How should we respond to being harassed?
(vv. 10, 12)
- A. “Your reward in Heaven is great.”
 - B. “They persecuted the people who were before you.”
 - C. “For theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” (v. 10)

Spiritual Secret #8

So, what is the Kingdom of Heaven?

1. It is a kingdom where the rejected are received.

Matthew 11:4-5



**But those whom the
people call trash,
Jesus called
treasures.**

Spiritual Secret #8

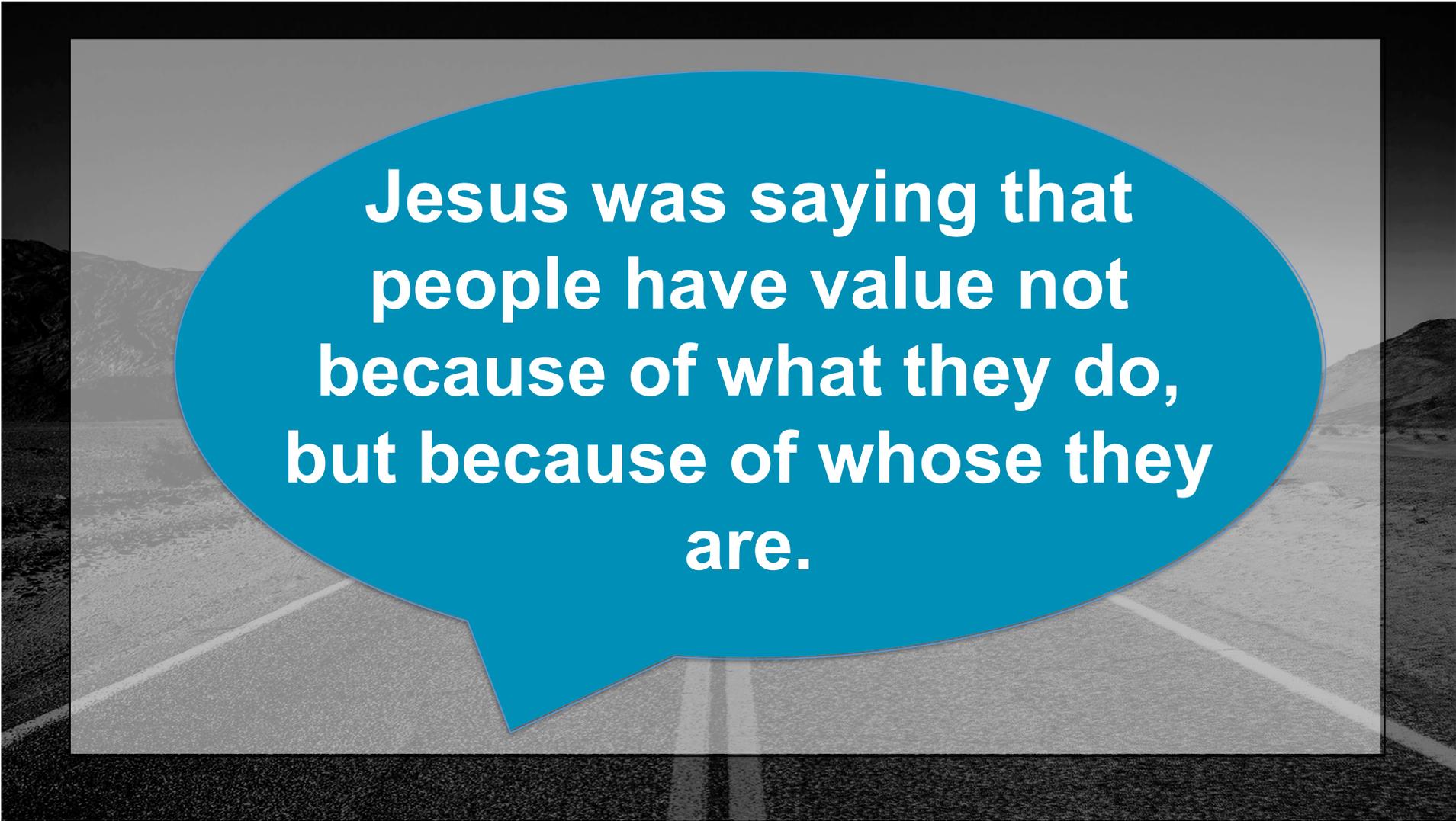
Psalm 139:13

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Spiritual Secret #8

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.



**Jesus was saying that
people have value not
because of what they do,
but because of whose they
are.**

Spiritual Secret #8

So, what is the Kingdom of Heaven?

2. It is a kingdom where “the dead have life.”
3. It is a kingdom where “the good news is preached to the poor.”



**Do you want to have
the thrill of being used
to change the world?**

Spiritual Secret #8

Matthew 5:10-12

“God blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

“God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.”