Mother Teresa study questions

(She was officially declared a saint in 2016.)

1. Mother Teresa emphasizes her weakness, dependence, and humility: “Sometimes I am so helpless and weak. I think that is why God uses me. Because I cannot depend on my own strength, I rely on Him twenty-four hours a day.” By contrast, predator-types typically emphasize their own strength, power, and aggressiveness. How should one decide how strong/weak, powerful/dependent, aggressive/humble one is or should be?

2. Teresa counsels humility this way: “You learn humility only by accepting humiliations. And you will meet humiliation all through your life. The greatest humiliation is to know that you are nothing.” Why do you think she so strongly urges you to know that you are nothing?

3. Predator types *use others for their own benefit*, while Teresa says she lets others *use her for their benefit*. Are use-or-be-used the only options in life?

4. *Sacrifice* is another emphasized theme in the Teresa excerpt: “We need a life of prayer, of poverty, and of sacrifice.” What does she mean by sacrifice, and is it opposed to standard business concepts of *investment* and *profit*?

5. “Altruism” is based on the Latin word *alter* (other), and is typically defined as the principle of valuing others above oneself and being willing to sacrifice for them with no expectation of gain for oneself. Do Teresa’s recommendations seem altruistic in that sense?