Introduction: What the world needs now is…

- How would you answer that question?

- Do you believe that America has a bright future? Why? Why not?

- What are your greatest concerns?

- What do you think really needs to CHANGE in our country, and why?

- How do you think Jesus would answer the questions above?

The setting and context

- The world is woefully broken

- Jesus is wildly popular
Matthew 5 overview

5:3-12 The characteristics of His true followers and their promised rewards

5:13-16 Salt and light: The movement’s strategy

5:17-20 Relationship of this new teaching to the Law of Moses

True righteousness (Matthew 5:20)

You have heard it said... | But I say to you...
---|---
External | Internal
Doing | Being
Duty | Devotion
Performance | Relationship
Guilt | Grace
Letter | Spirit
Head | Heart
Application of Matthew 5:20 to…

- Murder Matthew 5:21-26
- Divorce Matthew 5:31-32
- Retribution Matthew 5:38-41
- Adultery Matthew 5:27-30
- Oaths Matthew 5:33-37
- Enemies Matthew 5:43-48

Summary of Chapter 5 – Jesus condemns _______________ righteousness (spiritual activities) when it does not flow from an _______________ relationship with God.

Jesus’ warnings – 4 “movement killers”

1. Key issue = __________________________ Matthew 6:1-18
   - Giving Matthew 6:1-4
   - Prayer Matthew 6:5-8
   - Fasting Matthew 6:16-18

   The diagnostic question = Who am I seeking to __________________________?

2. Key issue = __________________________ Matthew 6:19-33
   - Money Matthew 6:19-24
   - Clothes Matthew 6:28-30
   - Food Matthew 6:25-27
   - Anxiety Matthew 6:31-33

   The diagnostic question = Whose __________________________ (kingdom) am I seeking to accomplish?

3. Key issue = __________________________ Matthew 7:1-12
   - Judging Matthew 7:1-5
   - Preaching Matthew 7:6
   - Asking Matthew 7:7-12

   The diagnostic question = Where am I mis-applying Jesus’ teaching?
What the World Needs Now
(Part 1)

4. Key issue = ________________________________  Matthew 7:13-29

- Narrow gate  Matthew 7:13-14
- A tree’s fruit  Matthew 7:15-23
- Wise and foolish builders  Matthew 7:24-27
- Crowds amazed  Matthew 7:28-29

The diagnostic question = Have I entered through the narrow gate and does my life reflect one who is…

1. Poor in spirit?  5. Merciful?

Discussion Questions:

1. What parallels exist in the problems of today with the problems in the 1st century?

2. Where and how did Jesus gain the credibility to attract “serious” followers and crowds of thousands (see Matthew 4:23-35)

3. Why do you think Jesus began His movement by describing the characteristics of a true follower and the promised rewards?

4. Where did God speak to you in this message?

5. What needs to happen in your life? Time? Priorities? Relationships? To be a vital participant in Jesus’ revolution of love and light?