

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

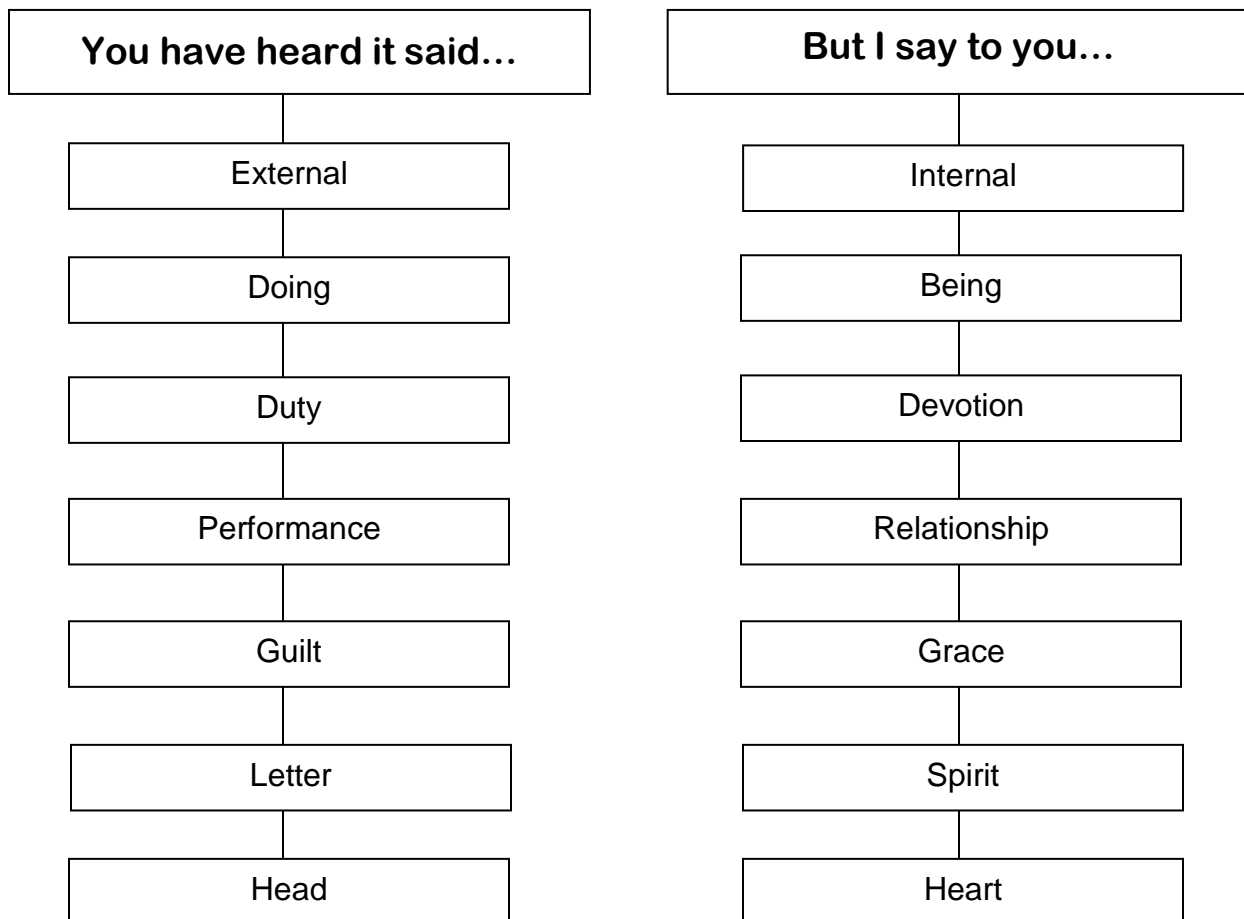
Matthew 4:23-5:2

- 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)



Application of Matthew 5:20 to...

- | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| • Murder | Matthew 5:21-26 | • Adultery | Matthew 5:27-30 |
| • Divorce | Matthew 5:31-32 | • Oaths | Matthew 5:33-37 |
| • Retribution | Matthew 5:38-41 | • 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?

4. Key issue = _____

- Narrow gate
- A tree's fruit
- Wise and foolish builders
- Crowds amazed

Matthew 7:13-29

Matthew 7:13-14

Matthew 7:15-23

Matthew 7:24-27

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?
2. Mourns?
3. Meek?
4. Hungering & thirsting for righteousness?
5. Merciful?
6. Pure in heart?
7. A peacemaker?
8. Persecuted because of righteousness?

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?