



None of the tools of progress have helped build the relational foundation our society requires.

UNPRECEDENTED Pervasiveness of pollution Speed of travel - Vulnerability to terrorism Information age - Overpopulated prisons Collapse of information float - Speed of communication - Aging population - Shrinking world - Prevalence of divorce - Tightly coupled world system - Disappearance of traditions - National indebtedness - Power of computers - International indebtedness - Litigation levels - Corporate Indebtedness - Specialization Personal Indebtedness

UNPRECEDENTED Population congestion Number of scientists - Traffic congestion **Energy utilization** - Availability of illicit drugs Energy dependence Abortion Nuclear waste – disposal Disintegration of extended problems family Electronic money Changing role of women Mobility - Daycare for children Complexity Media pervasiveness Media power

FIVE ENVIRONMENTS:

MOST OF OUR PROGRESS:

- Physical Environment
 (wealth, technology, health the material world)
- 2. Cognitive Environment (knowledge, information, education the intellectual world)

FIVE ENVIRONMENTS

MOST OF OUR PAIN:

- Social Environment (Family, friends, church – the societal world)
- 4. Emotional Environment (feelings, attitudes the psychological world)
- Spiritual Environment (the eternal and transcendent – God)

For being so highly educated, so many are painfully dumb.

How do we become a mature person?

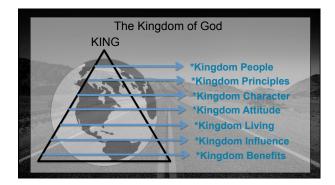
The Sermon on The Mount Provides The Answer

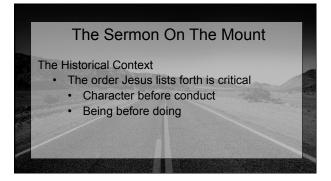
The answer Jesus gives is the only answer that WORKS!

The Sermon On The Mount

The Historical Context

- In Matthew 5:1, Jesus begins to teach his disciples.
 - This is the Lord's description of what He wants His disciples TO BE and TO DO!
 - The Kingdom





What you ARE is more important than what you DO.
What you ARE determines what you DO!

How can I impact my society?

BY BEING DIFFERENT

The new plan is new people!

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

MATTHEW 5:3

A. BLESSED

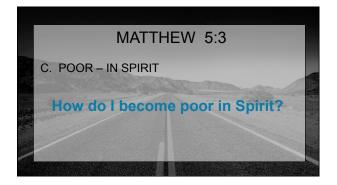
• Blessed = "one approved by God"

• What kind of person does God approve?

B. THE POOR

• The Pauper

• The Beggar



How do I become poor in Spirit? 1. See your spiritual bankruptcy • You must see that on your own, you cannot reach God. • You must see that you are spiritually dead. (Ephesians 2:1)

How do I become poor in Spirit?

2. You must see that only Jesus Christ can meet our problem of Spiritual Bankruptcy.

3. You must admit your desperate need for Jesus Christ.

4. You must become a dependent person.



So what do you do to become "poor in spirit?"

You must let go and trust in Him.

MATTHEW 5:3

C. POOR – IN SPIRIT
D. THE PROMISE

• "For theirs is the kingdom of heaven..."



"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."