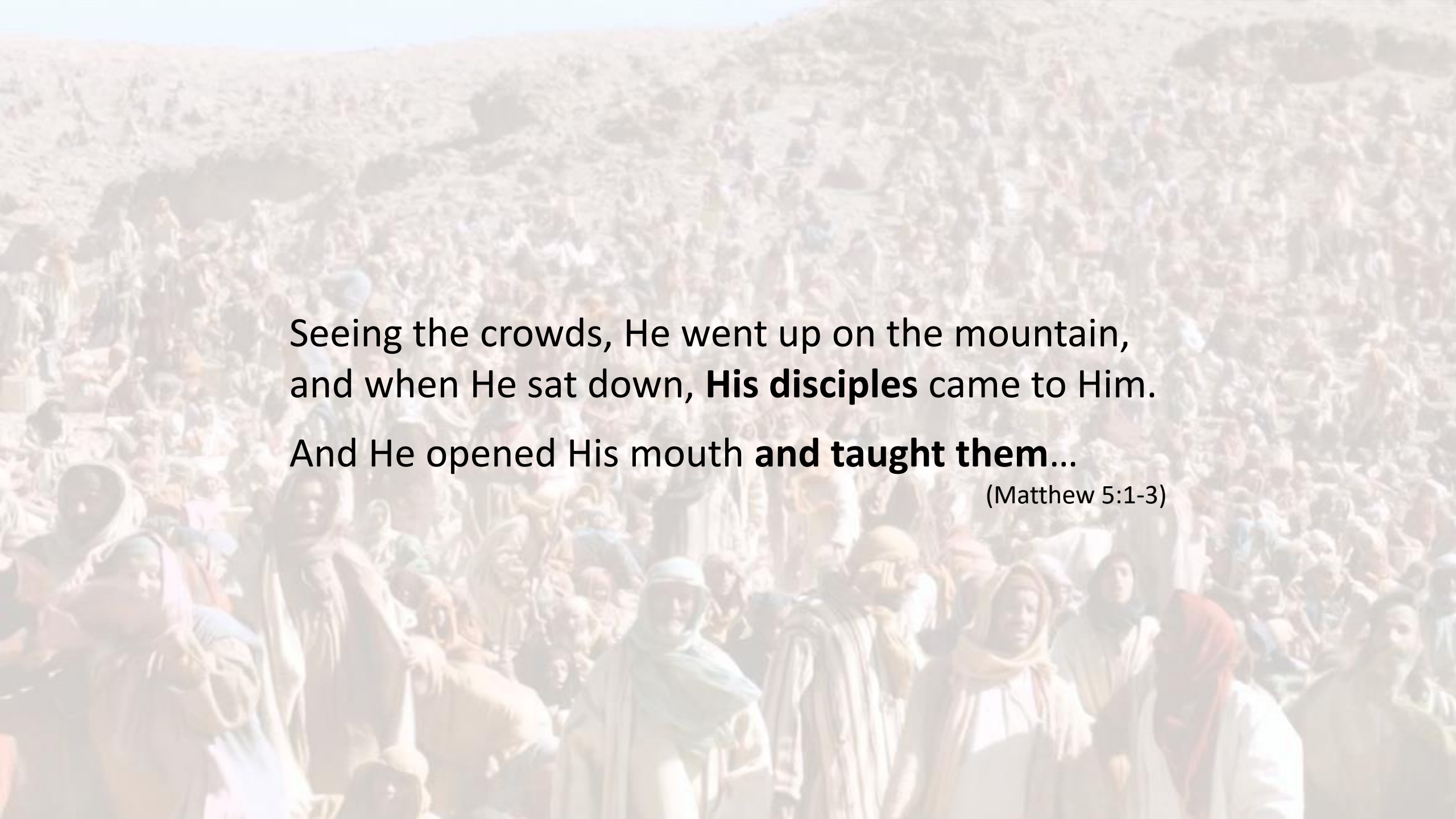


A young white lamb with a small tuft of wool on its head stands in a field of green grass. The lamb is facing left, looking towards the horizon. The background is a soft-focus field of green grass.

# The Sermon on the Mount

(Matthew 5 to 7)

6 Alms, prayer and fasting

A large, dense crowd of people, likely disciples and followers, gathered in a desert or mountainous region. The people are dressed in traditional, simple clothing, including head coverings and robes. The scene is set against a backdrop of a vast, open landscape with rolling hills under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is one of a significant gathering.

Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain,  
and when He sat down, **His disciples** came to Him.  
And He opened His mouth **and taught them...**

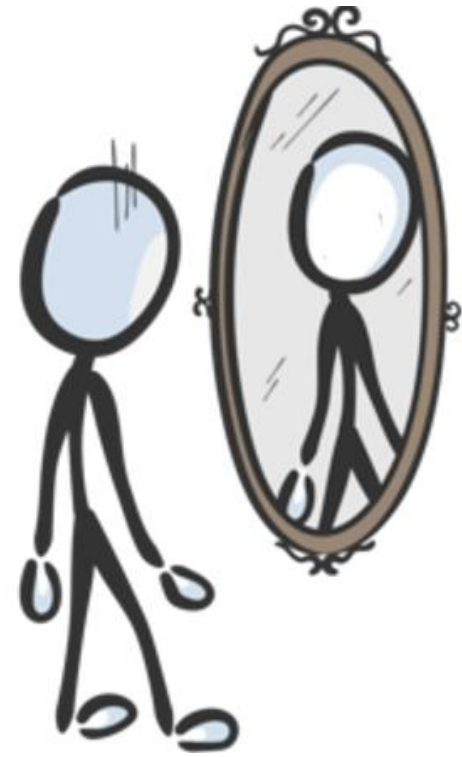
(Matthew 5:1-3)

# “You have one teacher, the Christ...”

(Matthew 23:10)

## Looking in the mirror...

- Who do you follow?
  - “But everyone does it...”
  - “It’s OK, it’s the fashion...”
- Who do you learn from?
  - “It’s a great book, very popular...”
  - “I just listen to him – he is always right.”
- **Are you a disciple of the Lord Jesus?**



## A key statement

I tell you,  
unless your righteousness **exceeds**  
that of the scribes and Pharisees,  
you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.  
(Matthew 5:20)

True righteousness

# True righteousness

By sending His own Son...  
God condemned sin in the flesh,  
in order that  
**the righteous requirement of the law**  
might be fulfilled in us,  
who **walk**  
not according to **the flesh**  
but according to **the Spirit**.  
(Romans 8:3-4)



True righteousness

# THEREFORE...

As He who called you is holy,  
you also be holy in all your conduct...  
(1 Peter 1:15)

You therefore must be perfect,  
as your heavenly Father is perfect.  
(Matthew 5:48)

Sin will have  
no dominion over you,  
since you are not under **law**  
but under **grace**.

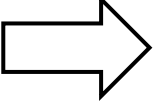
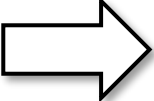
(Romans 6:14)

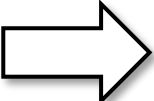
If we **confess our sins**,  
He is faithful and just to **forgive** us  
our sins and to **cleanse** us  
from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:9)

## Matthew 6:1-18

Such as giving  
to the needy

- 1 Beware of **practicing your righteousness** before other people to be seen by them...  Our walk in relation to **others**
- 2 And **when you pray**, you must not be like the hypocrites...  Our walk in relation to **God**

(Matthew 6:7-15 *“This, then, is how you should pray...”*)
- 3 And **when you fast**, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites...  Our walk in relation to **ourselves**

1

## Our walk in relation to others

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from **your Father** who is in heaven.

Intention!

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others.

Actors

Truly, I say to you, **they have received their reward.**

What is their reward?

**But when you give to the needy,**

do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

And **your Father** who sees in secret will reward you.

(Matthew 6:1-4)



## 2 Our walk in relation to God

And when you pray,  
you must not be like the hypocrites.  
For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues  
and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others.

Actors

Intention!

Truly, I say to you, **they have received their reward.**

What is their reward?

**But when you pray,**  
go into your room and shut the door  
and pray to **your Father** who is in secret.

And **your Father** who sees in secret will reward you.

(Matthew 6:5-6)

## 3

## Our walk in relation to ourselves

And when you fast,  
do not look gloomy like the hypocrites,  
for they disfigure their faces  
that their fasting may be seen by others.

Actors

Intention!

Truly, I say to you, **they have received their reward.**

What is their reward?

**But when you fast,**  
anoint your head and wash your face,  
that your fasting may not be seen by others  
but by **your Father** who is in secret.

And **your Father** who sees in secret will reward you.

(Matthew 6:16-18)

### Fasting:

- NOT forcing God to answer!!
- Reminds us of our mortality
- Exposes our fleshly desires
- Helps us to focus on prayer

# Not as the hypocrites do...

- Hypocrisy is a sin that even the world hates
- We are all called to an individual walk before our Father
  - ✓ As we face our own challenges
  - ✓ As we battle our sin through faith
  - ✓ As we learn and grow in grace

We live this life  
in fellowship  
**together**

# We are all called to an individual walk before our Father

## ➤ An active and generous faith

- *When you give to the needy...*
- We also give our time, energy, heart...
- When they see your life, they see your faith.

## ➤ Spiritual vision and resources

- *When you pray...*
- Colossians 1:9-12 (“...filled with the knowledge of His will...”)
- Ephesians 6:10-13 (“Put on the whole armour of God...”)

## ➤ Personal discipline

- *When you fast...*
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (“I discipline my body...”)
- “Good morning Father...”

## *Your Father will reward you...*

- What reward do you want?
- What reward will motivate you?
- What reward is sufficient?

The hypocrite's reward  
**worthless**  
is the praise of others  
^

- **We love to give to the ones we love.**
- When we obey God out of love, our obedience is worship.  
When we serve God out of love, our service is worship.
- **Our greatest reward** is knowing and seeing the Lord's satisfaction with our willing obedience and service.

# *Your Father will reward you...*

## How do we live this very personal life of faith?

### 1. A life marked by repentance.

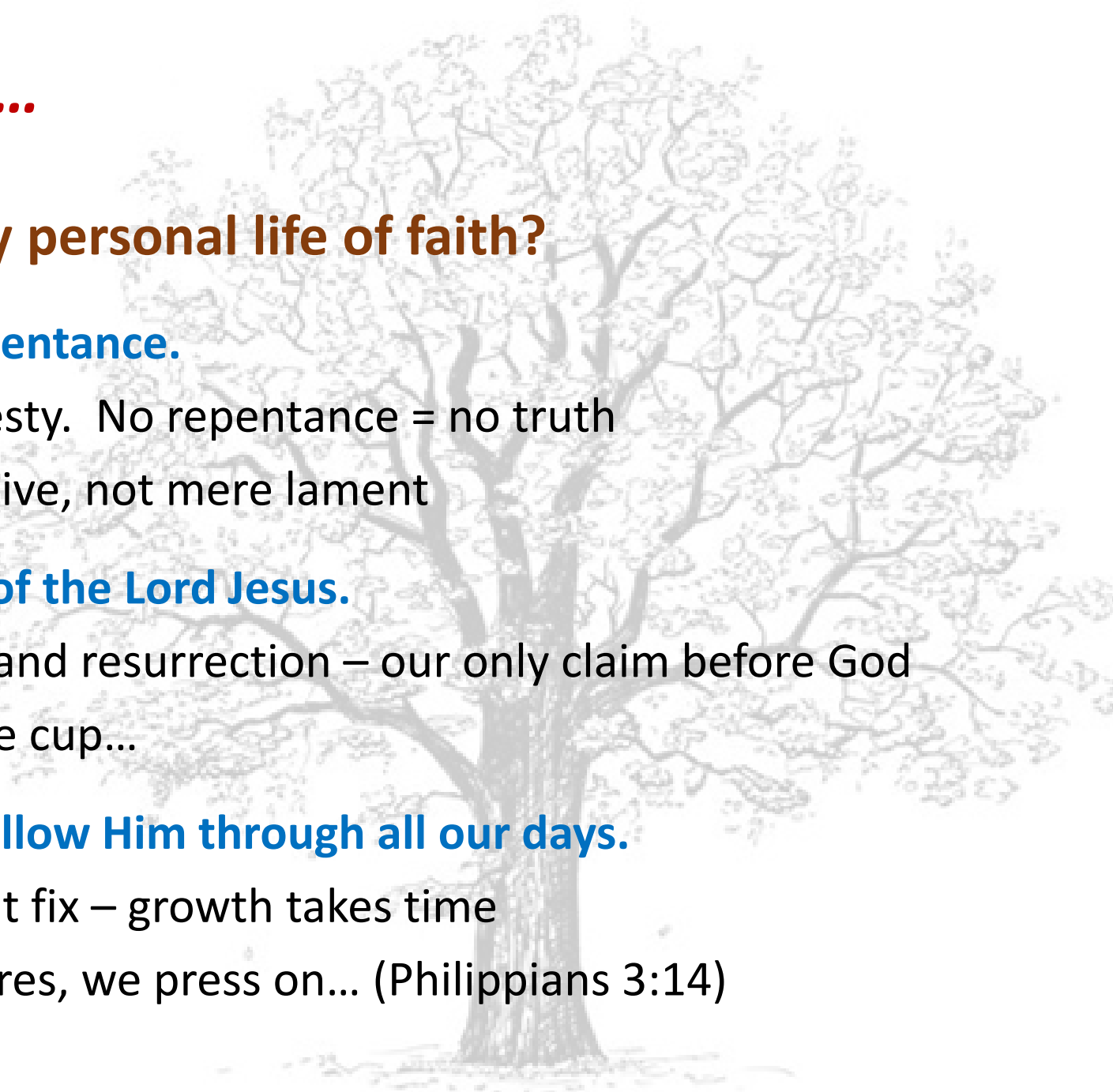
- The sinner's honesty. No repentance = no truth
- Repentance is active, not mere lament

### 2. Faith is in the cross of the Lord Jesus.

- The Lord's death and resurrection – our only claim before God
- The bread and the cup...

### 3. A commitment to follow Him through all our days.

- There is no instant fix – growth takes time
- Despite past failures, we press on... (Philippians 3:14)



A large crowd of people, likely a biblical scene, is shown in a desert landscape. The people are dressed in traditional, simple clothing, including head coverings and robes. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent text box containing a quote from the Bible.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

(Matthew 5:3)