

Power - Socio-economics

The Global Economics Game

1 person - comfy chair, snacks & drinks of choice

2 people - plastic chairs, snack & drink

Everyone else - sit on the floor and only have various amounts of bread or water, at least four will receive none.

Mark 10:17-31 The Rich Young Ruler

¹⁷ As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

¹⁸ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

²⁰ "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

²² At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

²⁶ The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?"

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

²⁸ Then Peter spoke up, "We have left everything to follow you!"

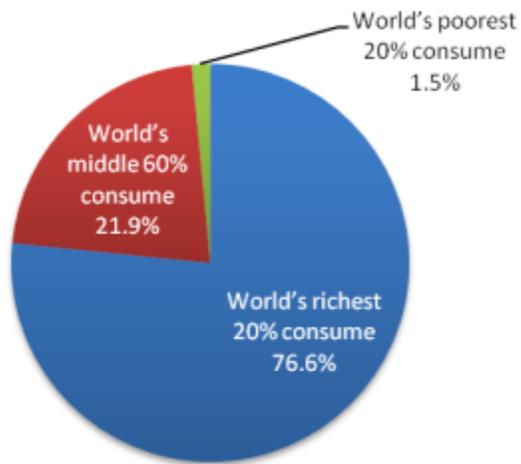
²⁹ "Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel ³⁰ will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

The Global Situation

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/26/poverty-facts-and-stats>

In 2005, the wealthiest 20% of the world accounted for 76.6% of total private consumption. The poorest fifth just 1.5%

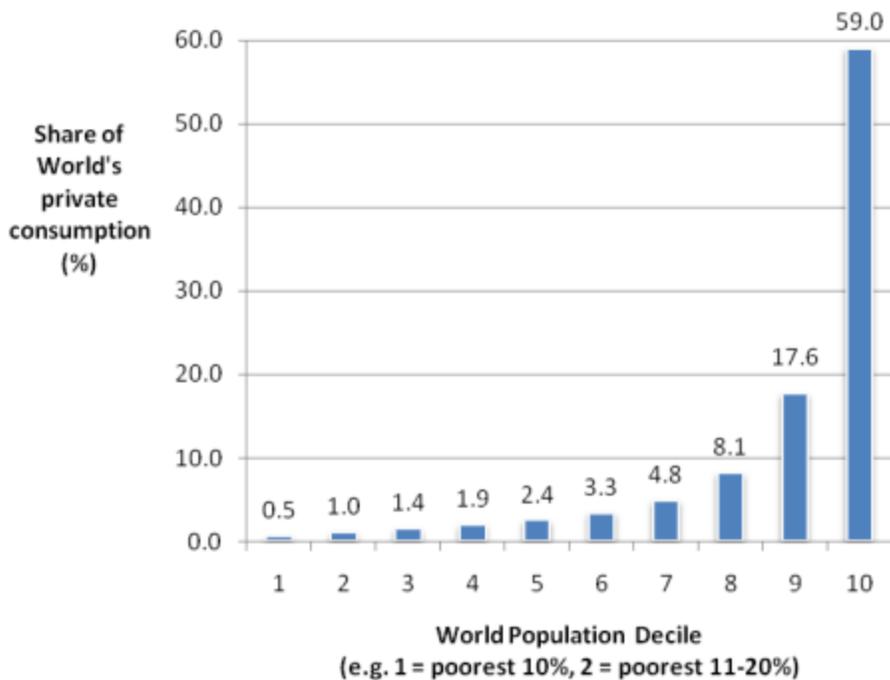
Share of world's private consumption, 2005



Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008

The poorest 10% accounted for just 0.5% and the wealthiest 10% accounted for 59% of all the consumption

Inequality of Consumption, 2005



Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2008

Global Priority	\$U.S. Billions
Cosmetics in the United States	8
Ice cream in Europe	11

Global Priority	\$U.S. Billions
Perfumes in Europe and the United States	12
Pet foods in Europe and the United States	17
Business entertainment in Japan	35
Cigarettes in Europe	50
Alcoholic drinks in Europe	105
Narcotics drugs in the world	400
Military spending in the world	780

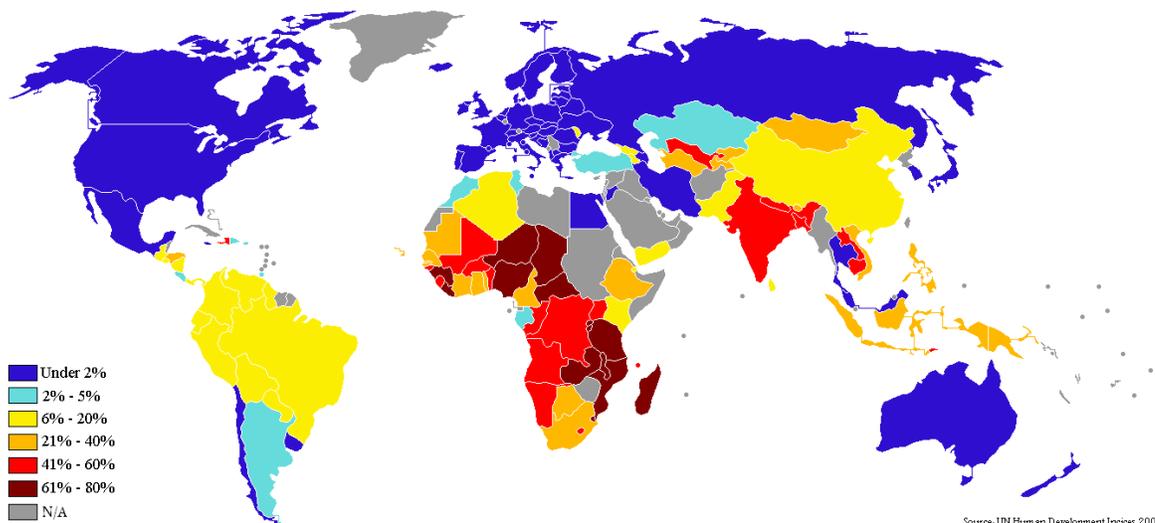
And compare that to what was estimated as *additional* costs to achieve universal access to basic social services in all developing countries:

Global Priority	\$U.S. Billions
Basic education for all	6
Water and sanitation for all	9
Reproductive health for all women	12
Basic health and nutrition	13

Absolute/Extreme Poverty - "a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services." Began as \$1 USD a Day (1990), raised to \$1.25 (1995) and most recently \$2.50 USD (2008).

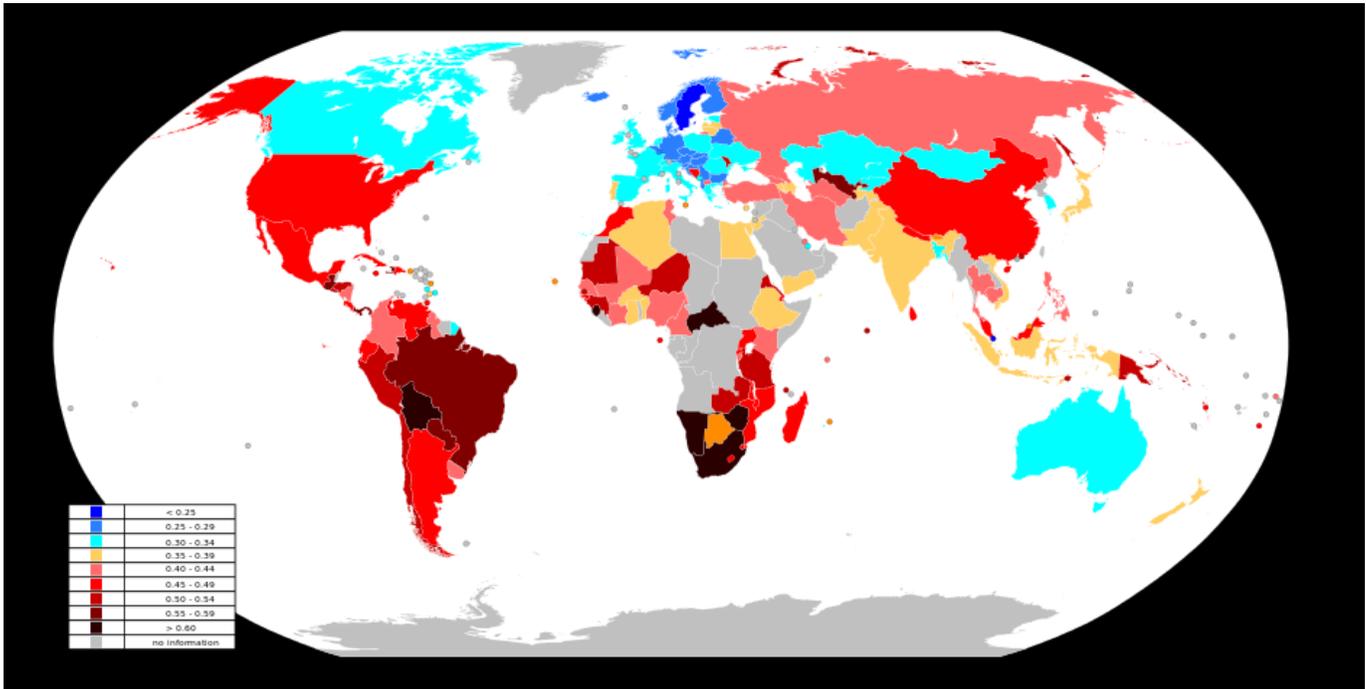
Over 3 billion people live on less than \$2.50 USD a day - half the world's population.

According to the World Bank, in 1980, 43% of the world lived in extreme poverty but in 2010, 20% of the world lives in extreme poverty.



Poverty measured as people living under \$1 a day (updated to 1.25 and then \$2.50 USD)

Relative Poverty - Used to ascertain "poverty" in wealthy developed countries. In other words, it is relative to the ideal within the community one lives in. It is relatively arbitrary.



The national Gini coefficient is a number between 0 and 1, where 0 corresponds with perfect equality (where everyone has the same income) and 1 corresponds with absolute inequality (where one person has all the income, and everyone else has zero income).

(1989–2009 by CIA)

1.5% of the total population of Vancouver receives social assistance. (2012 vital stats)

Down from 1.7% in 2010

2012 BC Total is 1.7% compared to 2.0% in 2010.

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"One thing you lack" to a person who had everything - rich, young, ruler (money, vitality, position/influence)

What did the man lack?

Their wealth got in the way of their following Jesus.

Is this (poverty) the way for everyone?

No, the point of the story is, "Who then can be saved?"

The one who follows Jesus.

The way of St. Antony

The way of St. Francis

Mark 14:3-11 Jesus Anointed

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ² "But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot."

³ *While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.*

⁴ *Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.*

⁶ *"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸ She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹ Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."*

¹⁰ *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹ They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.*

The extravagance of an act of devotion
"The poor you always have with you."
A balance.

Proverbs 30:5-9 "Neither Rich nor Poor"

⁷ *"Two things I ask of you, LORD;
do not refuse me before I die:
⁸ Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.
⁹ Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the LORD?'
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.*

A prayer to not allow poverty to lead to crime.
nor wealth to lead to hubris.

Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man & Lazarus

¹⁹ *"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.*

²² *"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'*

²⁵ *"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'*

²⁷ *"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'*

²⁹ *"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'*

³⁰ *"'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'*

³¹ *"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

"You received your reward in this life."

It is about how you live, rich or poor.

A warning to the rich that they can't live whatever way they want.

"If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen to one risen from the dead."

So What do we do?

1. Remain Connected to those who have less resources

- a. Take time to **pray** for those in difficult circumstances. Global & Local.
- b. Find a way in which you can **befriend** to those with less. Be mindful of what real friendship is.
- c. **Be aware** of the need of others and see how you can meet those needs.
- d. **Speak** on behalf of the powerless and those who have less.

Eg. Where you eat. Treating others. Community.

Not in judgment but in awareness.

2. Prayerfully Decide upon your own Lifestyle. "Foxes have holes"

- a. **Enough** is enough. Look at your needs & responsibilities and ask not how much you need but how little.
- b. Ask the **advice** of spiritual mentors and friends re. your lifestyle.
- c. Enjoy and **be content** with what you have. Not guilty nor pointing your finger.
- d. **Be discontent with the status quo** - you are empowered to help transform the world.

3. Share.

- a. **Share with others around you** what you have - home, objects, time, etc.
- b. **Give without desire for return.** Charity, Church, individuals, etc.
- c. **Do not be proud.** You are not defined by what you have. Your value is not in what you have.
- d. Do not romanticize the poor nor despise the wealthy. Equality of personhood.