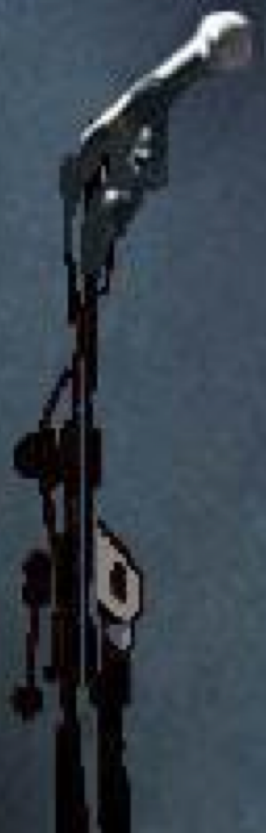


# PASTOR'S OPEN MIC



# Who is this Mark dude?



# “Blessings to Bank on from the Sermon on the Mount”

- Beatitudes – Matthew 5:3-12
  - Inward Character (vs. 3-5)
  - Outward Expression (vs. 6-9)
  - Cost of following Christ (vs. 10-12)

# My Take on How Blessings are Often Categorized...

- Life
  - Health
  - Longevity
- Liberty
  - Freedom From Bonds
  - No Boundaries Between You and Your Goals
- Happiness
  - Prosperity
  - Harmony
  - Contentment
  - Emotional Peace



# Inward Character

- Matthew 5:3-5
- <sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

# Inward Character

- Matthew 5:3-5
- <sup>3</sup>Blessed are the *poor in spirit*, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who *mourn*, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the *gentle*, for they shall inherit the earth.

# Inward Character

- Matthew 5:3-5

- <sup>3</sup>Blessed are the *poor in spirit*, for theirs is the *kingdom of heaven*.  
<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who *mourn*, for they shall be *comforted*. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the *gentle*, for they shall *inherit the earth*.

# Outward Expression

- Matthew 3:6-9

- <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Sons of God.



# Outward Expression

Matthew 3:6-9

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who ***hunger and thirst for righteousness***, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the ***merciful***, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the ***pure in heart***, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the ***peacemakers***, for they shall be called sons of God.

# Outward Expression

Matthew 3:6-9

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who ***hunger and thirst for righteousness***, for they shall be ***satisfied***. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the ***merciful***, for they shall ***receive mercy***. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the ***pure in heart***, for they shall ***see God***. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the ***peacemakers***, for they shall be ***called sons of God***.

# Cost of Following Christ

- Matthew 5:10-12

- <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

# Cost of Following Christ

Matthew 5:10-12

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who have been **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people **insult you and persecute you**, and falsely say **all kinds of evil against you because of Me**. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



# Cost of Following Christ

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- Acts 5:27-42

- <sup>27</sup>When they had brought them, they stood them before the counsel. The high priest questioned them, <sup>28</sup>saying, “We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.”  
<sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.”

- Acts 5:27-42

- <sup>30</sup>“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you had put to death by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.” <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”...

- Acts 5:27-42

- ...<sup>40</sup>They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus and then released them.  
<sup>41</sup>So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name. <sup>42</sup>And everyday, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.



# So What?

- God's blessings go beyond and achieve more than life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
- What can we be assured of?
  - Ecclesiastes 3:11
  - John 15:5
- Apart from Christ, the beatitudes are unachievable – nothing more than a moral code.