Blessed are the persecuted!

Matthew 5 v 10-12

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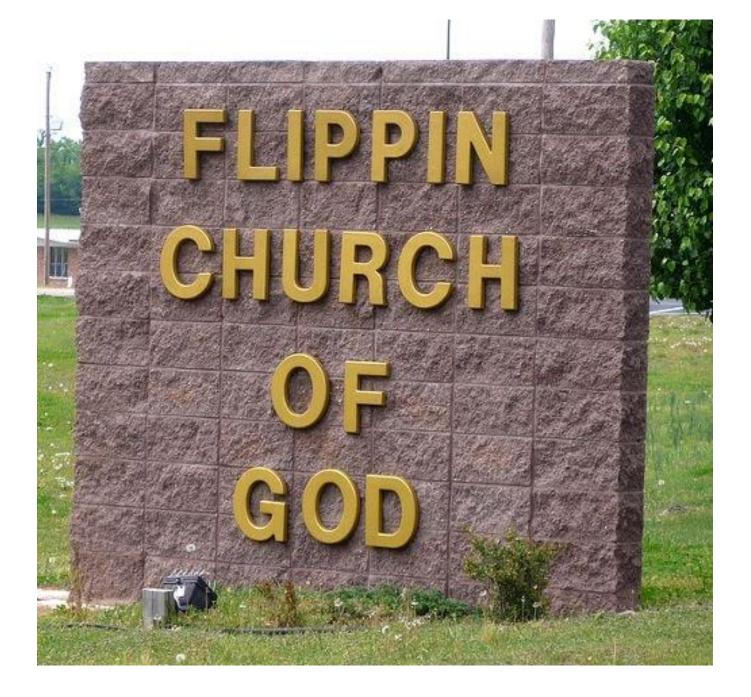


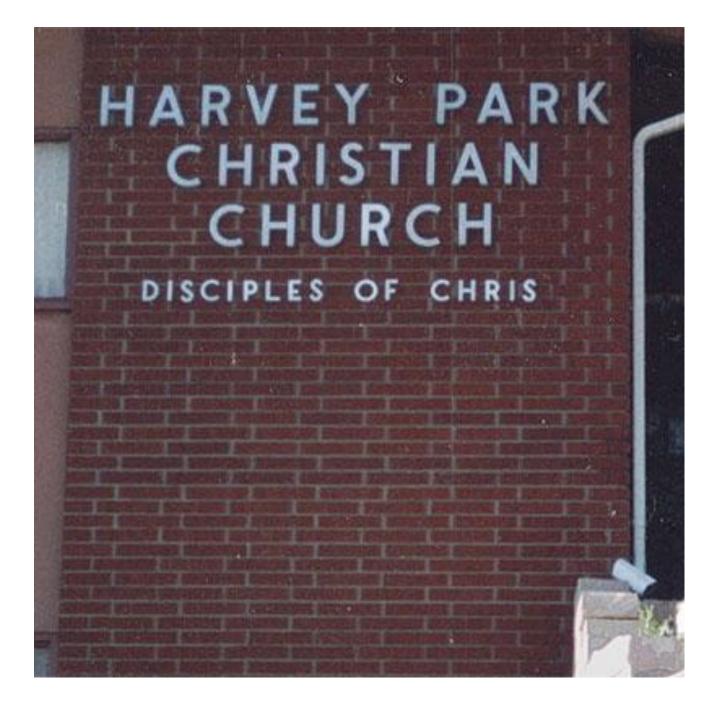




こまちのりばは後方(盛岡側)へ

For Akita Shinkansen Komachi, Go back toward your behind.



















"Blessed are the cracked, for they shall let in the light."

— Groucho Marx







"The more we explore their implications the more seems to remain unexplored. Their wealth is inexhaustible. We cannot plumb their depths.

John Stott Christian counter-culture





"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven for in the same way they persecuted the prophets that were before you."

Matthew 5 v 11-12



Blessed means:

- That God's favour and goodness is upon a person
- The outpouring of God's love
- The outpouring of God's affirmation and support
- The outpouring of God's help and generosity on the one who is blessed



"It would be butterflies against machine guns"

Matthew 10 vs 16





Christianity isn't a **THEORY**

Christianity is not an **ABSTRACTION**

Christianity is not a **PHILOSOPHY** Or a **PROPOSITIONAL** truth

It's a **SUBJECTIVE**, **TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENTIAL** truth

μαθητής mathetes

- High commitment
- Active learning
- Imitation
- Living in community

Christ promised his people three things...

That they would be in constant trouble; that they would be completely fearless; and that they would be completely happy"







"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those that love him"

James 1 v 12





"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but when is unseen is eternal"

2 Corinthians 4 v 17







"The Church must get out of the cloister and into the world...where man is challenged to participate in the sufferings of God at the hands of a godless world.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer







- Wang Mingdao – a Chinese leader imprisoned for 23 years after the Communists came to power







Richard Wumbrand at the time of his imprisonment.



But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9





What does this look like in today's world?



2 Corinthians 4 v 1-9















In Prison...









We need to find a way of holding on to God when it seems as if God has let go of us!





