

Jack Benny



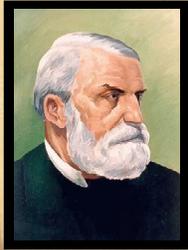
Robber: "Your money or your life?"

Benny: "Don't rush me, I'm thinking about it."

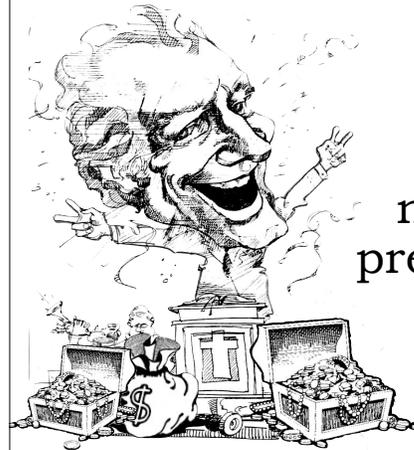
Mark 10

"28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." 29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, 30 but that he shall receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 **But many who are first, will be last; and the last, first.**"

D.L. Moody



"We may easily be too big for God to use, but never too small."



"he shall receive a 100 times as much now in the present age"

Priming the Pump Theology

1. Leave stuff to follow Christ.

2. In this life - get the stuff back 100 fold.

3. In world to come - get eternal life

4. Leaving stuff is an investment, sowing a seed, or priming the pump.



In "Priming the Pump Theology" Worldliness = a lack of faith

1. A lack of faith in the desire of God to bless you materially.
2. A lack of faith in the promises of God to keep His word.
3. A lack of faith in God's honoring the sowing of your seed.
4. A lack of faith in persevering in hope that the blessings will eventually come.

*Priming the Pump Theology
has two versions*

Overt version

emphasizes
FAITH

God promises
to give me
the desire of my heart
through sowing a seed
and faith.

Covert version

emphasizes
FAITHFULNESS

God will bless me
in this life if, when,
and because
I am faithful.

1 Corinthians 13:13

“But now **faith, hope, love**, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

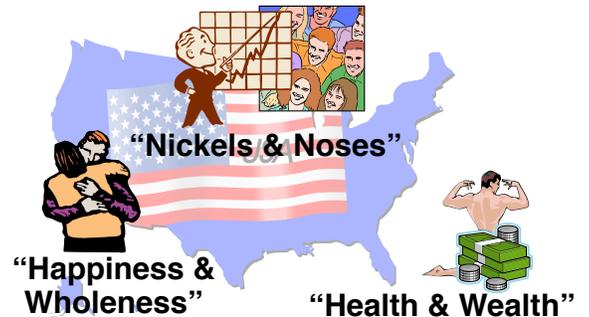
God is a passionate promoter of -
faith, hope, & love.



And so is Satan!

1. **Passionate love** for the things of this world.
2. **Persistent hope** that God will bring our ship in.
3. **Persevering faith** in God to grant us the object of our love and hope.

*The American dream is all about
faith, hope, & love **in this world!***



Some (Liberals) confuse the Good News
with a “secular utopia” -



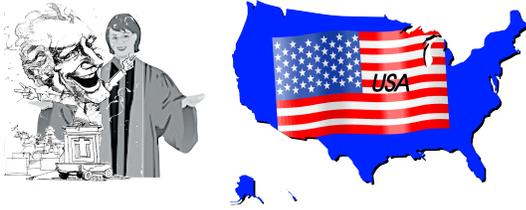
- where Jesus is a poster-boy (person)
for a political agenda.

Others (Conservatives) tend to confuse
the Good News with the “good life.”



- where Jesus is a water-boy
for a personal agenda.

Both sides share more in common
than they think



- They both talk a lot about “the kingdom.”
- They both put their hope in this life.
- They both chase the American dream.
- They both see Jesus as a “means.”

True Worldliness

involves an un-renewed mind that misunderstands grace and confuses the Kingdom with this world.

1. **No bartering in the Kingdom of God.**
2. **Faith and faithfulness are a response to God’s grace, not a ransom for it.**
3. **The basic desire of our heart is shalom, not the worldly means to pseudo peace.**

*The essence of shalom is -
rest
in the face of brokenness.*

1. **Reconciliation with God & others .**
2. **Restoration of inner and outer life.**

But what about the promised 100 times return?

*The testimony of Jesus
and the Apostles*

1. **What were they seeking and expecting?**
2. **What did they experience?**
3. **What did they teach about true wealth and wisdom?**
4. **What was Jesus’ example?**

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you, Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

1 Timothy 6

“5 . . . men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 6 **But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.** 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.”

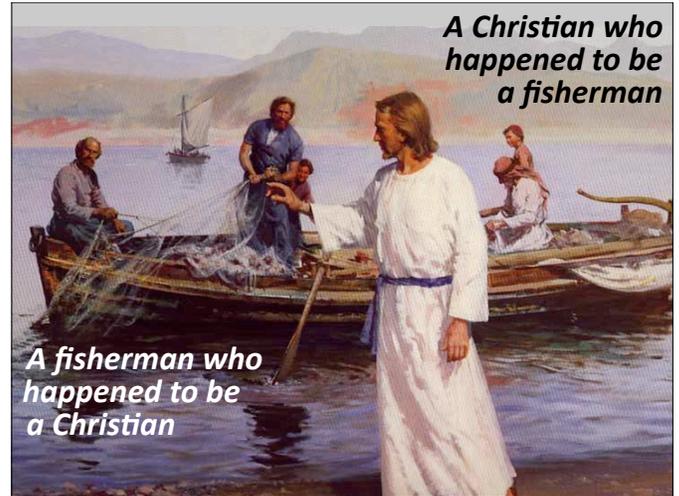
Mark 1

“17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” 18 And they immediately left the nets and followed Him.”

In what sense did Peter leave his fishing nets?

John 21:3

“Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.””



Mark 3

“33 And answering them, He said, “Who are My mother and My brothers?” 34 And looking about on those who were sitting around Him, He said, “**Behold, My mother and My brothers!** 35 **For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.**””

1 Timothy 5

“1 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, 2 the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

Galatians 6:10

“the household of the faith”

Ephesians 2:19

“fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household.”

Acts 4:32

“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them.”



Example of Jesus being IN but not OF the world.

Disciples are free from a preoccupation with gaining and hoarding the stuff of this world as a source of their identity and security.

What is this passage about?

- 1. This promise is not about money.**
- 2. Social service and asceticism are not the primary objectives of the Gospel.**
- 3. Giving up (letting go of things) is not for the purpose of getting more stuff or establishing social justice. It is for the purpose of being set free.**
- 4. That which worldly wealth promises is delivered by the Body of Christ.**

Worldly Christians

- 1. - too often want to be saved for not from their idols - worldly security, significance, etc.**
- 2. - too often want to be saved from the world's trouble, but not from the worldly idols.**
- 3. - see ministry as facilitating them in, not freeing them from the world.**
- 4. - are frustrated in that the world's "fulfillments" are fleeting, but are afraid of the life style of God's kingdom.**

Practical challenges for the evangelical Christian.

- 1. Don't buy the deceitful message of worldly wealth.**
- 2. Be a part of the "100 fold return" for others.**

1 Timothy 6:17-19

"17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 19 storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed."