

What can we learn from the church in MX?

- I am an unfamiliar face in LELC
 - First time I was here was for katya's installation
 - Enjoy coming back every time so it is a pleasure to be with you all tonight
 - And I will be brief because I don't want to overstay my welcome, even though I understand how bountiful the lutheran welcome can be
- Katya asked me to speak about the above topic
- I felt I couldn't really answer that question so I changed it to: What did I learn from the church in MX?
 - I don't know what you know already about the church in MX
- Why I even have lessons from a church in MX
 - YAGM
 - Beautiful song we have for you
- My understanding of lent is that it is a time of biblical study and reflection. Let's get biblical, shall we?
- Do we have any Spanish speakers? You all can be, in any event
- The reason I chose the beatitudes, was because I have a vivid memory visiting the cathedral in Cuerna and seeing the beatitudes there
 - The building itself is huge. The walls built unmistakably high as a way of defense against the new religion. Remolded many times. Has a famous mural and has another set of walls around the outside of the grounds which occupy an impressive amount of space in downtown Cuernavaca
 - Before you get into the building
 - After the spanish conquest, Mexicans were used to worshipping outside so many of the churches have spaces that would have originally been used as outdoor worship
 - Equidistant cross and a sculpture of a black jesus
 - Baroque architecture
- My country saw us lurking there and pointed out that that the translation was unique
 - It reads, "Bienaventurados los que tienen espíritu de pobre porque de ellos es el reino de los cielos"
 - Blessed are those with the spirit of the poor because to them belongs the kingdom of heaven
 - Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
 - Those that are spiritually bankrupt and needing god's help
 - Dangerous to focus on one line of scripture, in my opinion, yet I will ask you to think about that difference in translation *pause* won't ask you to talk to your neighbor
 - For me the spirit of the poor is easier to identify - the face of the poor even easier
 - Jesus sits to begin this sermon too, I like to think about him talking about the spirit of the poor
- I love this example because it embodies my opinions on language's role in my understanding of the bible

- It makes me want to immediately slam the bible shut, thinking I couldn't ever possibly gather the meaning the author was trying to convey
- But also forces me to critically think, to wonder with a smile internally about all that is being said in just a few changes, with words of a different language.
- How can you blow through this stuff? It makes me want to sit back and have a bible study all the time
- In this time of study and reflection, I encourage you to think about the significant role language plays in our understanding. Play around with different translations, read about the work the translator did.
 - In closing I repeat as we began, "Blessed are those with the spirit of the poor because to them belongs the kingdom of heaven"
 - My stretch goal for you in closing: is to see what the church (building) can teach us about Mexico.
 - Tough to separate faith from our daily life