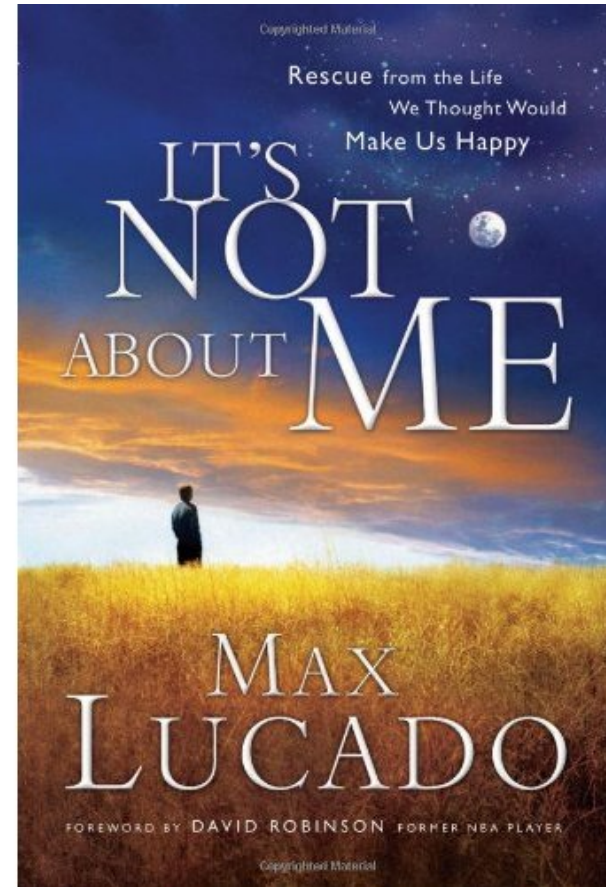
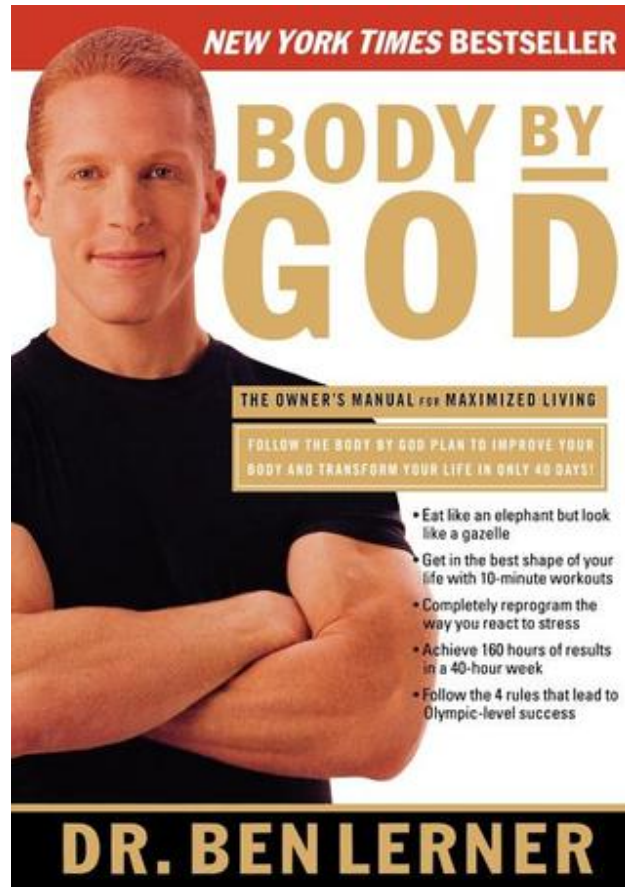


**‘If you do \_\_\_\_\_, God will bless/curse you’**



What comes to mind when you think of blessings  
and curses in the Bible?



‘Blessing’ theology is ultimately self-centred

"Nothing lasts forever,

The best efforts don't always pay.

Sometimes you get sick and you don't get better.

That's when life is short, even in its longest days"

- *John Mellencamp*

- Job received abundant material blessings after his suffering, but he is an exception, not the rule.
- The rule in the Bible is that all of its great leaders went through a wilderness experience of some sort, especially Jesus, the Man of Sorrows.
- Not despite his suffering, but *through* his very suffering that salvation is offered to the world.

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable.”

- *C.S. Lewis*

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all  
kinds of evil against you because of me.”

- *Matthew 5:3-11*



The upside down kingdom

Grace, not karma

“I get so many things I don’t deserve”

**‘If you do \_\_\_\_\_, God will bless/curse you’**



***True?***  
***Busted?***  
***Plausible?***