



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH

Reflections

That's just not the way people think. They start out with an emotional commitment to a certain idea, and then they use their formidable cognitive powers to organize facts to support what they want to believe anyhow.

- Francis Fukuyama, *Freakonomics, How To Change Your Mind*

The roads to our earthly hells are often paved with other people's good intentions...It may just be that the very worst of harm is done by people with the very best of intentions.

- Lewis B. Smedes, *Forgive and Forget*

Take away their diversions and you will see them bored to extinction. Then they feel their nullity without recognizing it, for nothing could be more wretched than to be intolerably depressed as soon as one is reduced to introspection with no means of diversion...The only thing that consoles us for our miseries is diversion. And yet it is the greatest of our miseries. For it is that above all which prevents us thinking about ourselves and leads us imperceptibly to destruction. But for that we should be bored, and boredom would drive us to seek some more solid means of escape, but diversion passes our time and brings us imperceptibly to our death.

- Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*

Sermon

Why Jesus Spoke in Parables or What are we going for here? Part 2

Rankin Wilbourne

Scripture

Mark 4:1-23

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” ⁹ And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁰ And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹² so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

¹³ And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

¹⁸ And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰ But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

²¹ And he said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? ²² For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Information and Resources

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, **PacificCrossroads.org/Events** or speak with someone at the 'New Here' tent.

General Fund Update (as of 8/11/19)

Offerings Budget: **\$2,650,296.68**

Expenses Budget: **\$3,098,859.83**

Offerings Actual: **\$2,394,183.47**

Expenses Actual: **\$2,660,791.09**

To give from your phone text **give2pcc** to **77977**

Open Sunday Volunteer Roles

Westside: Coffee Service, Ushers, Welcome Team, Kindergarten & 4th Grade Teachers

Downtown: Hospitality, Prayer Team, Children's Ministry Teachers

To serve on Sunday or to volunteer for any of these roles

Email: **alexscott@pacificcrossroads.org**

Congregational Care

Our congregational care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place.

Email: **congregationalcare@pacificcrossroads.org** or call our office at **310.551.0081**

Rise Up: A Christian Restoration Program

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives.

Email: **thom@pacificcrossroads.org**

Parking Information

Westside: Volunteers will pay your parking for 30 minutes after service at a garage pay station.

Cover Art by Misato Pang