

September 23, 2018

It's a Wonderful (Brief) Life

Ecclesiastes



Reflections

“Well, all the time you spend trying to get back . . . what’s been took from you, more is going out the door. After a while, you have to try to get a tourniquet on it. Loretta tells me you’re quittin’. How come you doing that?”

“I don’t know. I feel overmatched. I always figured when I got older . . . God would . . . sort of come into my life somehow. And He didn’t. And I don’t blame Him. If I was Him, I’d have the same opinion of me that He does.”

“You don’t know what He thinks . . . your daddy ever tell you how Uncle Mac come to his reward? Gunned down on his own porch over in Hudspeth County. Seven or eight of ’em come up there, all wanting this, wanting that. Uncle Mac went back in the house to get the shotgun. Well, they was ahead of him. Shot him in his doorway. Aunt Ella come out, tried to stop the bleeding. Uncle Mac all the while trying to get that shotgun. They just sat there on their horses, watching him die. After a while, one of ’em said something in Indian and they turned. Left out. Uncle Mac knew the score, even if Aunt Ella didn’t. Shot through the left lung. And that was that . . . as they say . . . she buried him the next morning. Digging in that hard old caliche. What you got ain’t nothin’ new. This country is hard on people. You can’t stop what’s coming. It ain’t all waitin’ on you. That’s vanity.”

- Cormac McCarthy, *No Country For Old Men*

Sermon

Doing Time

Rankin Wilbourne

Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.


¹⁴ I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. ¹⁵ That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away.

'Cakes' by Wayne Thiebaud, 1963

'It's a Wonderful Life' logo by Jesse Wu

www.PacificCrossroads.org 

Pacific Crossroads 

310 551-0081 

Events & News

Pre-Marriage Seminar, October 13

If you are recently engaged and planning to get married, a newlywed, or are in a serious dating relationship, this one-day seminar offers you practical information on how to build a healthy marriage from the start.

Join us as several leaders from our community will discuss topics like the purpose of marriage, communication and conflict resolution, sex and finances.

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.

Ministry Resources

Congregational Care

Our congregational care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.