



PACIFIC
CROSSROADS
CHURCH



KINGDOM VIRTUES

THE PARABLES OF JESUS
FROM THE GOSPEL
OF LUKE

AUGUST 4, 2019

Reflections

I have stumbled at it myself more than once, down to the deepest pit of despair, so that I wished I had never been made a man. (That was before I knew how health-giving that despair was, and how close to grace.)

- Martin Luther, *Bondage of the Will*

The Christian good news is all about God dying on a rubbish-heap at the wrong end of the Empire. It's all about God babbling nonsense to a room full of philosophers. It's all about the true God confronting the world of posturing, power and prestige, and overthrowing it in order to set up his own kingdom, a kingdom in which the weak and the foolish find themselves just as welcome as the strong and the wise, if not more so.

- N.T. Wright

The gospel is not something partial or piecemeal: it takes in the whole life, the whole of history, the whole world. It tells us about the creation and the final judgment and everything in between. It is a complete, whole view of life, and many are unhappy in the Christian life because they have never realized that this way of life caters for the whole of man's life and covers every eventuality in his experience. There is no aspect of life but that the gospel has something to say about it. The whole of life must come under its influence because it is all-inclusive; the gospel is meant to control and govern everything in our lives.

- D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Spiritual Depression*

“The trouble with books,” the mother cautions, “is that you never know what's in them until it's too late.”

- Jeanette Winterson, *Why Be Happy When You Can Be Normal*

Sermon

Jake's Final Scene

Tim Lien

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Scripture

Genesis 48:8-20

⁸ When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, "Who are these?" ⁹ Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me here." And he said, "Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them." ¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." ¹² Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. ¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. ¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said,

"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,

¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;
and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and
Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." ²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying,

"By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying,
'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'"

Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

Events & News

PCC Leader's Retreat, August 16-18, Mt. Craggs & Gilmore Malibu Retreat Center

We are so excited to open up our registration for this summer's Leader's Retreat! Our speaker, Michele Mollkoy, is an Organizational Development Consultant and Leadership Coach. This weekend will be a great time to connect with other leaders and gain more leadership skills.

For more information or to register email Esther Park at epark@pacificcrossroads.org

General Fund Update (as of 7/14/19)

Offerings Budget: \$2,288,559

Expenses Budget: \$2,728,843

Offerings Actual: \$2,171,985

Expenses Actual: \$2,384,720

Parking Information

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

Downtown: The auxiliary parking structure closes at 8pm. Cars cannot be accessed after that time.

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: congregationalcare@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.