



PACIFIC  
CROSSROADS  
CHURCH

# Reflections

The play's the thing / Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King.

- Shakespeare

A direct attack only strengthens a person in his illusion, and at the same time embitters him. There is nothing that requires such gentle handling as an illusion, if one wishes to dispel it.

- Soren Kierkegaard

Every attempt to impose the gospel by force, to run after people and proselytize them, to use our own resources to arrange the salvation of other people, is both futile and dangerous...dangerous, because it profanes the word of forgiveness, by causing those we fain would serve to sin against which is holy. Worse still we shall only meet with the blind rage of hardened and darkened hearts, and that will be useless and harmful. Our easy trafficking with the word of cheap grace simply bores the world to disgust, so that in the end it turns against those who try to force on it what it does not want.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Kingdom of God comes into the midst and throws a man into the crisis of decision, and yet by its veiled form the Word of the Kingdom holds man at arm's length away in order to give him room and time for personal decision...Jesus deliberately concealed the Word in parable lest men against their will should be forced to acknowledge the Kingdom, and yet He allowed them enough light to convict them and to convince them."

# Sermon

*Why Jesus Spoke in Parables or What are we going for here? Part 1*

Rankin Wilbourne

# Scripture

Matthew 13:1-23

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.

<sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" <sup>11</sup> And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup> For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>13</sup> This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. <sup>14</sup> Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

"You will indeed hear but never understand,  
and you will indeed see but never perceive."

<sup>15</sup> For this people's heart has grown dull,  
and with their ears they can barely hear,  
and their eyes they have closed,  
lest they should see with their eyes  
and hear with their ears  
and understand with their heart  
and turn, and I would heal them.'

<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

<sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

# Events & News

www.PacificCrossroads.org   
Pacific Crossroads   
310 551-0081 

## Regular Sunday worship schedule starts August 25th

9AM Worship @ Santa Monica High School

11AM Worship @ Santa Monica High School

5PM Worship @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

For information about ways to serve on Sundays email: [alexscott@pacificcrossroads.org](mailto:alexscott@pacificcrossroads.org)

## General Fund Update (as of 8/4/19)

**Offerings Budget: \$2,385,931**

**Expenses Budget: \$2,821,672**

**Offerings Actual: \$2,218,318**

**Expenses Actual: \$2,516,018**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:thom@pacificcrossroads.org)

*Cover Art by Misato Pang*