

Scriptures and Quotes-Sunday, September 10, 2017-“A Mystery Made Plain” - Landon Lynch – Uptown; “Salvation by Imagination” - Scott Oppliger - Wash Park

Wash Park

Ephesians 3:2-13

Ephesians 1:9-10

Ephesians 6:12

Violence

Hate

Greed

Deceit

Lust

Abusive Power

Manipulation

Oppression

Division

Falsehood

Control

All the -isms

In the biblical view the rulers are at one and the same time visible and invisible, earthly and heavenly, spiritual and institutional (Col. 1:15-20). What people in the world of the Bible experienced as and called rulers and authorities was in fact the actual spirituality at the center of the political, economic, and cultural institutions of their day. Walter Wink, *The Powers that Be: Theology for a New Millennium*, page 145.

Can you see how this message is meant not just to be heard or read but to be seen in human lives, in radically inclusive communities, written not on pages in a book but in the lives and hearts of friends?

Can you see how the kingdom, originally hidden in parables, began to be hidden in new places-in the stories of real people and real communities across the Roman Empire and eventually, around the world?

Can you imagine yourself and your community of faith as a living parable where the secret message of Jesus is hidden today, ready to be revealed? - Brian McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus*, page 159.

We're in a time where we exclude one major component out of this whole thing called life: God. Nobody speaks on it because it's almost in conflict with what's going on in the world when you talk about politics and government and the system. - Kendrick Lamar, interview, *The New York Times' T Magazine*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/01/t-magazine/beck-tom-waits-kendrick-lamar.html>

Hebrews 4:16

Jesus took the empire's instrument of torture and transformed it into God's symbol of the repudiation of violence-encoding the creed that love, not violence, is the most powerful force in the universe. Brian McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus*, page 228

Uptown

Ephesians 3.7-13

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”- Isaiah 49.6, NIV

Jesus replied, “It’s not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” - Matthew 15.26-27, NIV

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God’s manifold wisdom is that which confronts me with the inescapable conclusion that I know nothing, and I find myself oddly comforted realizing an old boundary has been dissolved by this encounter and I will begin again to build a view, a new wisdom, that is more in line with God’s manifold, multi-varied, many colored wisdom.

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.” - John 16.12, NIV

What gaps are available for us to jump across?

What boundaries exist that we can ignore?

What perspectives offend that we can seek to understand?

What colors would we identify people by (politically or racially) that we could see beyond?