

# **CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF**

## *THE PARABLES OF JESUS*



July 8, 2018

Pastor Steve Luxa

### ***Death Brings Life***

#### **Introduction**

“<sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.”” (John 12:20-26, ESV)

#### **1. The Analogy (vv. 23-24)**

“He spoke of Himself. He Himself was the grain that had to die, and be multiplied; to suffer death through the unbelief of the Jews, and to be multiplied in the faith of many nations.” (Augustine)

## 2. The Hard News (v. 25a)

“I have an iron will, and all of my will has always been to conquer some horrible feeling of inadequacy... I push past one spell of it and discover myself as a special human being and then I get to another stage and think I’m mediocre and uninteresting... Again and again, My drive in life is from this horrible fear of being mediocre. And that’s always pushing me, pushing me. Because even though I’ve become Somebody, I still have to prove that I’m Somebody. My struggle has never ended and it probably never will.” (Madonna from “The Misfit” in *Vanity Fair*, April 1991)

## 3. The Very Good News (v. 25b-26)

“I can say that I never knew what joy was like until I gave up pursuing happiness, or cared to live until I chose to die. For these two discoveries I am beholden to Jesus.” (Malcolm Muggeridge)

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## Digging Deeper

This week’s passages:

Monday: John 12:20-26

Tuesday: Mark 8:24-38

Wednesday: Luke 14:25-33

Thursday: Matthew 11:25-30

Friday: John 6:22-58

Weekend: Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day’s passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God is saying to you. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. Read the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. Record or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. Reflect and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. Respond by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*” James 1:22).