



Living Ink

Learning to Live in God's Story

A Worship Series

Lent-Easter 2016

Lent 1 | Entering the Story

Living Ink | Lent to Easter 2016

- Lent is a 40-day season when the church commemorates the time Jesus spent in solitude, in silence, and fasting in the wilderness. Jesus prepared himself in the wilderness for what the Father had for him in his life and ministry.
- In this season of wandering and preparation, we are invited to make room for God's Spirit as we allow him to become the source of our strength and the Lord of our lives.
- In our *Living Ink* worship series, we will discover through the Scriptures that God is the Author of a grand narrative—a tale that encompasses all our struggles, pain, joys, and victories. This Author calls us to co-authorship, using our very lives to continue the Kingdom mission and vision of Jesus in a world poised for resurrection.

Lent 1 | Entering the Story

- What is the grand narrative of the Scriptures?
- How does Jesus live into and complete the story?
- Why should you want to be a character in God's story?
- What does it look like to enter the story with Jesus?
- How do we live with a constant awareness of the story?
- What does it look like to continue retelling the story within a local church, the Body of Christ on earth?
- Why is it important for disciples to remain faithful in telling the story and living out the story in community?

The Power of Stories

- Stories give us access to our inner lives
- Stories are able to open up our imagination
- Stories can bring diverse people together
- Stories create a sense of shared identity
- Stories remind us that we're not alone
- Stories help us make sense of complex things
- Stories can inspire us to believe in the future
- A grand story says it's not about us, but something (or someone) much bigger

“In our contemporary culture . . . two quite different stories are told. One is the story of evolution, of the development of species through the survival of the strong, and the story of the rise of civilization, our type of civilization, and its success in giving humankind mastery of nature. The other story is the one embodied in the Bible, the story of creation and fall, of God’s election of a people to be the bearers of his purpose for humankind, and of the coming of the one in whom that purpose is to be fulfilled. These are two different and incompatible stories.”

Lesslie Newbigin

God's Story Through Israel

The grand narrative according to the Hebrews:

- The one true God created everything seen and unseen
- The Creator desired fellowship with his image bearers and for mankind to reign with him as co-creators
- The glory (beauty) of God and creation was fractured by sin in the primordial past—paradise was lost
- The Cosmic Lover (Yahweh) initiates a salvific plan through Abraham to redeem all nations of the world
- Biblical Motif: enslaved, exiled, exodus, salvation
- God uses mankind in his quest, but only through the Messiah, the Ancient of Days, can we be saved

Luke 4:1-13 NIV

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here.

¹⁰ For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

How Does Jesus Enter the Story?

- John the Baptist announces the coming of Kingdom and Messiah; Jesus enters the final stage in God's redemptive story by being anointed in baptism
- Jesus embodies the story of Israel in his journey through the wilderness, becomes the *true* Israelite; even more so he reveals he is the perfect human
- It is in the wilderness that Jesus shows his total dependency upon the Father for his life and ministry; Jesus denies himself and surrenders to God's will

Matthew 16:21-23 NLT

²¹ From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

²² But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God’s.”

Matthew 16:24-26 NLT

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. ²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

v.24 – NIV “deny yourself”

Mark 14:22-25 NIV

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. ²⁵ “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Learning to Live in God's Story

Reflection questions for Lent 1 "Entering the Story"

- Have you followed Jesus in baptism? Have you first entered the story by receiving his life-giving Spirit?
- In the wilderness and wanderings of your life, are you learning to deny your self and surrender your plans to the Father? Are you letting God guide you?
- Are you seeking to intentionally live in God's story? Will you come to the table with a fresh awareness that you are saying "Yes!" to God's will for you?



Living Ink

Learning to Live in God's Story

A Worship Series

Lent-Easter 2016

Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org