



Living Ink

Learning to Live in God's Story

A Worship Series

Lent-Easter 2016

Lent 3 | His Will Made Manifest

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.

Living Ink | Series Review

Week 1: Entering the Story

- Dying to self and putting on a new identity
- Becoming co-authors in God's grand narrative

Week 2: Wherever He Leads I'll Follow

- Choosing to trust in Him
- Committing to follow Him & walk in faith

Week 3: His Will Made Manifest

- Learning to hear His voice
- Allowing Him to transform us into "living words"

Lent 3 | His Will Made Manifest

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your true and proper worship

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do

Discerning His Will For Us

Hear the word

- Seek out His instruction
- Discern His will and purpose for us

Be the word

- Allow Him to transform us for that work

Do the word

- Acknowledge & carry out His will

Hear the Word

Jesus was in constant conversation with God

Fundamental to our relationship with God

Critical for our spiritual health

Matthew 4:4

But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Hear the Word

Isaiah 55:1-3 (NIV)

- 1** Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
- 2** Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.
- 3** Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David...

How He speaks to us

The Holy Spirit (our conscience)

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you

Observable phenomenon

Songs, sermons, nature, scripture,
devotionals, acts of others

Other Christians

Communities of accountability

Be the Word

Called to become like Christ

Peace Prayer of Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy....

Sometimes this transformation is uncomfortable!

Do the Word

James 1:22-24 (NIV)

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in the mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Philippians 4:9 (NIV)

9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me -- put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Do the Word

God created us and called us to do good works

These deeds testify to the health of our faith

James 2:14-17 (NIV)

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

When We "Can't" Hear Him

Train our listening muscles

Seek out partners in discernment

Recognize when we've missed the message

Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? **8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. **9** If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, **10** even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast

Never Too Late to Respond

1. Paul the Apostle

- Knowledge of the Law was not enough
- God gave him a message he could not ignore
- Eventually repented and allowed God to use him

2. Jonah the Prophet

- Heard God's clear message, but didn't like it
- Tried to run from God's instruction
- Eventually repented and allowed God to use him

3. King David, a man after God's own heart

- Accustomed to hearing from God, but shut Him out
- God spoke to him through the prophet Nathan
- Eventually repented and allowed God to use him

Learning to Live in God's Story

Reflection questions: "His Will Made Manifest"

- Are you actively listening for God's voice?
- Is He waiting for you to respond to something?
- Who can you turn to for discernment and accountability?



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