



Living Ink

Learning to Live in God's Story

A Worship Series

Lent-Easter 2016

Lent 5 | The Sixth Sense of the Kingdom

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 have been discovering 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 5 | The Sixth Sense of the Kingdom

- In the previous messages we've learned how we can enter God's story with our lives, how God wants to lead us by his Holy Spirit, and then how to hear and do his will
- We have also seen how God welcomes home his sons and daughters who have rebelled against his good will, that God can take our broken stories and bring forth beauty
- This morning, through the story of Mary anointing Jesus, and other examples from Scripture, we will discover that God's ways are surprising, upside down, and mysterious; these "unexpected twists" in his story testify to the wisdom and power of God over the wisdom of the world



The Sixth Sense (1999)
M. Night Shyamalan

Seeing with the Sixth Sense of the Kingdom

John 3:3-6 MSG

³ Unless a person is born from above, it's not possible to see what I'm pointing to—to God's kingdom."

⁴ "How can anyone," said Nicodemus, "be born who has already been born and grown up? You can't re-enter your mother's womb and be born again. What are you saying with this 'born-from-above' talk?"

⁵⁻⁶ Jesus said, "You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom.

John 12:1-3 NIV – Jesus Anointed by Mary

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:4-8 NIV

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

John 18:36-37 NLT – The contrast of two kingdoms

³⁶ Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.”

³⁷ Pilate said, “So you are a king?”

Jesus responded, “You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true.”

“Legion” speaks through the demonized man:

“What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” **Matt 8:29 NIV**

Those Lacking the Sixth Sense (Sight) of the Kingdom

- **Judas**, the wayward disciple in need of spiritual Lasik
- **Demons**, fallen ones can't see through their own darkness
- **Pilate**, a man dependent upon control, power, and violence
- **Pharisees**, judgmental, closed-minded people of the Law
- **Sadducees**, loved their comfort and status more than truth
- **Rich Young Ruler**, loved his stuff and doing things his way
- **Unbelieving Thief on the Cross**, attitude of resentment
- **Deserting Disciples**, following was too hard (Jn 6:66)

Paul, 1 Corinthians 1:18-19 NLT

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. ¹⁹ As the Scriptures say, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent.”

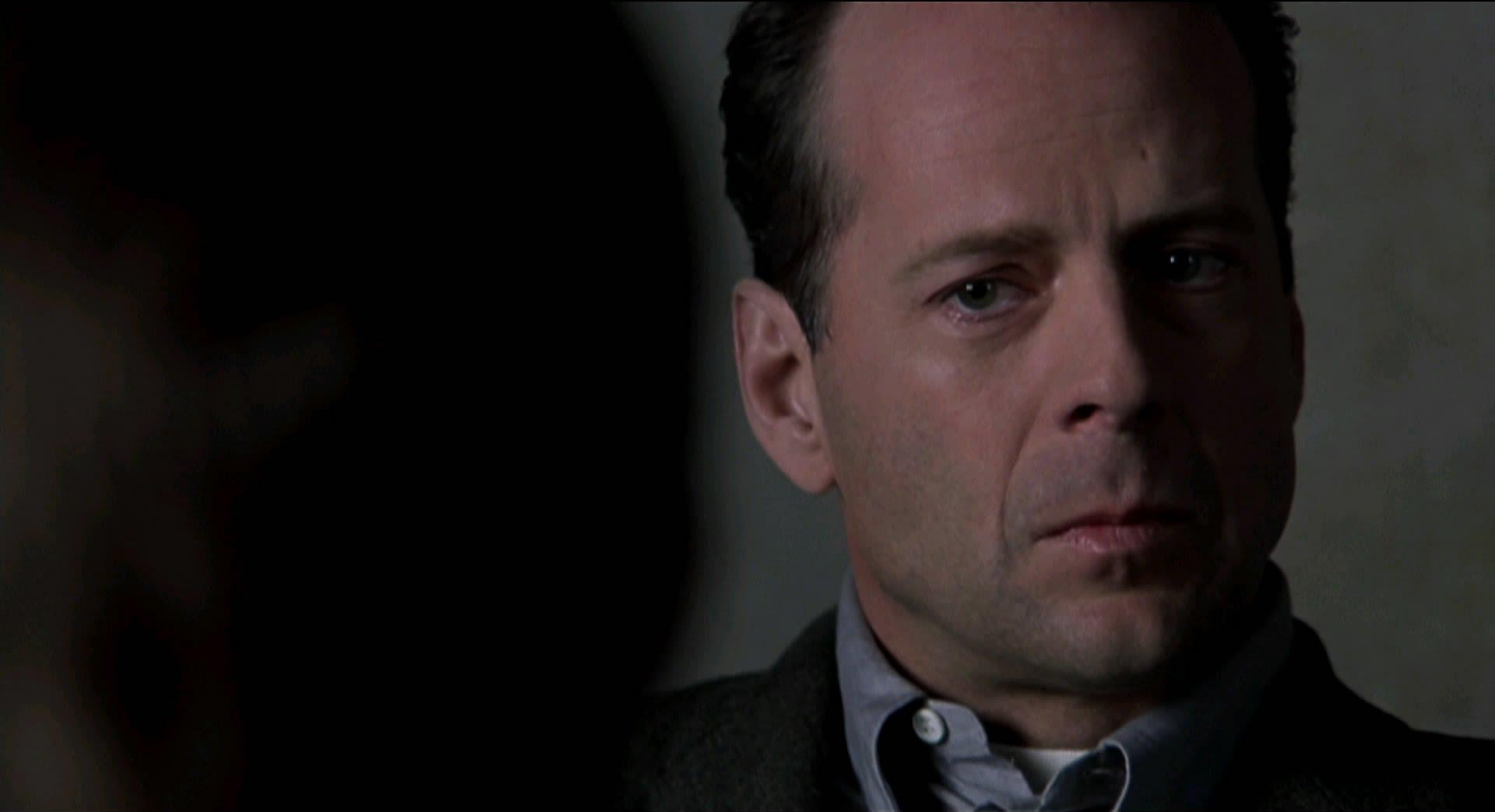
1 Corinthians 1:20-21, 27 NLT

²⁰ So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. ²¹ Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.

²⁷ God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is— his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Paul, Romans 12:2 NIV



The shocking revelation that reframes the story!

The Cross Reframes Everything

Paul, Colossians 2:13-15 NIV

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

How the Cross Impacts Your Story

How does exercising the sixth sense of the Kingdom impact your life and story? What difference does it make?

- You begin to see mountains and obstacles in front of you as objects that God is able to move with a little faith
- You see through what appears to be a dead end, you are able to believe that God will deliver you for his glory
- You are able to walk by faith, not by sight; you trust that God is leading you, you don't need all the answers
- You are able to let go of your desire to control and know everything; you learn that God often acts when you let go

Learning to Live in God's Story

“The Sixth Sense of the Kingdom” reflection questions:

1. Is your faith simply about believing the right things, being on the right side of issues, or are you truly born again?
2. Have you accepted that the cross for you means taking risks and stepping into the unknown when He leads?
3. Are you learning to let go, or do you fight for control? If your life is nice, neat, and predictable, you're likely walking by sight, not by faith born of real relationship.
4. What is God speaking to you about this morning? Will you respond to his invitation and live differently starting now?



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