

SERMON NOTES:



15th March, 2026

Lent Part 5
Wisdom

Pastor Mick Spann

1. The Search for the Good Life

- Our world offers many models of how to live; yet these paths leave us feeling empty.
- The life that truly lasts is found in a narrow, counter-cultural path: The Way of Jesus

2. Jesus Is the Wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:24 tells us Christ Himself is “the power and the wisdom of God.”

- Building our lives on Jesus means building on the wisdom of the Creator.

Proverbs 8:22–31

- Wisdom is pictured as being present at creation.
- God created the world with delight, order, and intention.

God’s wisdom is woven into the design of creation itself.

3. Where Wisdom Begins

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”

- Fear here means reverent awe, not terror.
- It means putting God at the center of life.

Without God at the center, other fears take over.

Wisdom begins when our life is ruled by God.

4. The Wise Builder

Matthew 7:24–27

- The wise man builds his house on the rock.
- The foolish man builds on sand.

Key difference:

The wise person hears and obeys.

The foolish person hears but ignores.

5. Wisdom Grows Through Obedience

Daniel Grothe writes:

“The degree to which we give ourselves over to Jesus is the degree to which we will find ourselves growing in wisdom.”

- Wisdom grows when we follow Jesus with our whole lives.
- Without Him, we begin to adopt counterfeit wisdom from culture.

6. A Crisis of Wisdom

Professor Allan Bloom once observed:

People pursue perfect bodies, but no longer pursue perfect souls.

Our culture has chased:

- Physical perfection
- Perfect knowledge
- Perfect wealth
- Endless entertainment

Yet something still feels missing.

7. The Authority of Jesus

People said:

- Mark 1:2 “What is this? A new teaching—and with authority!”
- Mark 6:2 “What wisdom is this that has been given him?”

Jesus’ life had gravity because His wisdom came from walking closely with God.

The same wisdom can shape our lives as we follow Him.

8. Two Kinds of Wisdom

James describes two types of wisdom.

Earthly Wisdom - James 3:14–16

- Bitter envy, Selfish ambition, Disorder, Evil practices

Heavenly Wisdom - James 3:13, 17–18

- Pure, Peace-loving, Gentle, Merciful, Full of good fruit, Impartial and sincere

Only Heavenly wisdom produces righteousness and peace.

9. Wisdom Requires Humility

The Desert Fathers warned:

- Seeking knowledge for praise leads to pride.
- True wisdom comes from a pure heart.
- Practice truth before teaching it.

These come straight from the teaching of Jesus: Matthew 5:8; Matthew 23:3

Wisdom is not hidden, nor is it found in quick fixes that promise shortcuts.

Wisdom IS found through worship, relationship with Christ and long obedience in the same direction.

10. Practical Steps This Week

- Turn down the volume of life and be present with God
- Fill your mind with the things of God
- BE OBEDIENT TO IT

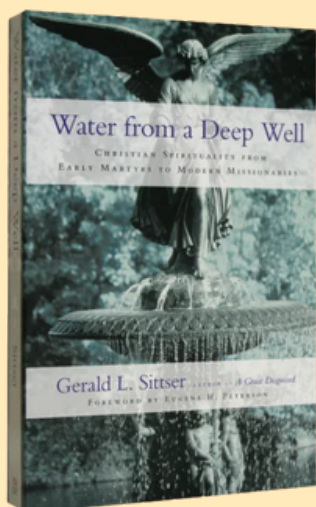
The goal is not more knowledge. The goal is transformation.

This series is based upon resources lovingly provided by Lectio 365 and the 24-7 Prayer Movement. The companion study guide on the next page is designed for small groups to consider each weekly theme more personally.

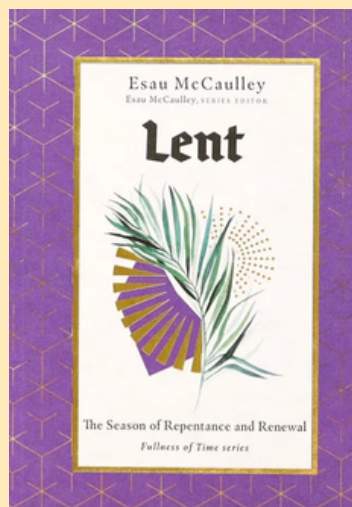
The Lectio 365 App provides daily guided prayers, in the style of meditative lectio divina. Over the next 40 days, the App will focus specifically upon these themes of Lent.



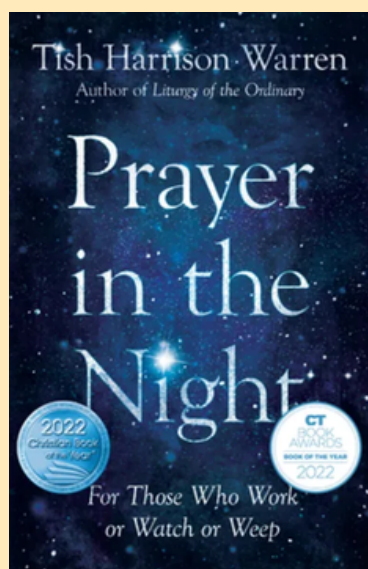
In preparation for this series, Mick has found these books to be very good:



Water from a Deep Well
by Gerald L. Sittser



Lent
by Esau McCauley



Prayer in the Night
by Tish Harrison Warren



Sabbath as Resistance
Walter Brueggemann





Lectio 365

Pray the Bible, every day.



24-7 PRAYER

Week 5

(The fourth week after Ash Wednesday)

The Foolish Way of Wisdom

The Desert as a Place of Revelation

Icebreaker Question

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Watch



lectio365.com/desertresources

Week 5: Patrick of Ireland

Read



Matthew 7:24–29

James 3:13–18

DISCUSS

1. In the video, Pete talked about how Saint Patrick, having been freed from being a slave in Ireland, received a call from God in a dream to go back to the place he was enslaved and proclaim the message of Christ. Where do you feel that God might be calling you to do something difficult or uncomfortable for him?
2. Jesus calls us to not only *hear* his words, we must also *put them into practice* (Matthew 7:24–29). What aspect of Jesus' teaching do you find most challenging in your daily decision making?
3. James 3:13–18 contrasts worldly wisdom with heavenly wisdom. In what everyday decisions do you feel most tempted towards self-interest or ambition, and how might humility reshape those decisions?