

The Plot Thickens

Have you ever seen a movie or read a book that did not end the way you expected it to? The movie “the Sixth Sense” is one such movie. Through the entire thing you think you have some concept of what is going on. But the director defies your expectations and surprises you in the end. After the last scene you realize that nothing was ever as it seemed. If you watch the film a second time you can easily see all of the clues and you wonder how you didn’t see them the first time.

The disciples had a similar experience. They had an expectation of what they were a part of. They had their own opinions as to what God’s Kingdom should look like and what the Messiah was meant to do. When Jesus was arrested and sentenced to die on the cross, they must have been crushed. “This isn’t how it’s supposed to happen!” Then three days later God surprised them again by resurrecting Jesus. The disciples said, “Man, I wasn’t expecting that!” Even after three years of following Jesus, after being told repeatedly what must happen to Jesus in Jerusalem, after witnessing him in the flesh after his resurrection, they still didn’t get it. They asked, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” They thought they had figured out the ending. “Now that Jesus is back from the grave,” they thought “now we can show the Romans what God’s people are all about.” But again, God surprised them with another plot twist. Jesus said, “I am leaving and the kingdom is in your hands. I will send you my spirit so that you will never be alone.” The disciples must have thought, “You’re leaving? But you just got back. Now is the time to show everyone that you were right all along. Its time to turn things upside down.” Jesus said, “No, that’s your job. You are going to receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” And then he left them.

But, something amazing occurred after the spirit was poured out on them. Their eyes were opened. Like the last scene of the movie everything came together and they said, “Oh, now I get it.” They looked back on Jesus’ life and teachings and said to themselves, “How did I miss those clues? How did I not know that this was the only way for the movie to end.”