

Hospitality That Changes Lives (4)

Using Your Story to Bless Others

Text: Mark 5:1–20

Introduction: Jesus changes a life, but that is not the end of the story—He then commissions that person to go home and tell what the Lord has done—your testimony becomes a door for others.

Our text today, teaches us that when Jesus transforms us, He sends us to tell others about it. Our own stories of deliverance and grace can open doors for others to know Christ.

I. Chains of captivity (Mark 5:1–5)

Jesus and His disciples arrive in the region of Gerasene (an area mostly inhabited by Gentiles).

A. Visualize his chains -

1. The man lived among tombs, possessed by many demons (v. 9)
 - a. *The man's chains were a picture of what sin and Satan can do to our lives.*
 - b. Satan's goal: destroy (John 10:10; Revelation 9:11; Romans 6:17–18)
2. Christ confronts his chains –
 - a. The demons recognize Jesus
 - He knelt –
 - He used Jesus divine name-
 - He appealed to Jesus
 - b. Jesus commands the demons exit -breaking the man's chains
 - c. There is hope in Christ who has the power to set us free: Matthew 11:28; 1 Peter 5:8–9; Ephesians 2:1–3

II. Cleaned by Christ (Mark 5:15)

A. Jesus delivers the man – permitting the demons to enter the pigs.

B. The demons kill the pigs (2,000)

1. The story gets out.
2. They beg Jesus to leave
3. The people seem more concerned with their economic loss than acknowledging the demon possessed man's deliverance.

C. But notice what has happened to the man himself: he's fully restored, *cleaned by Christ.*

1. Transformation: clothed and in his right mind
2. In scripture, clothing often picture new life (Galatians 3:27; Isaiah 61:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
3. Jesus not only removed his demons, He has restored his dignity and sanity.

D. His request is denied – The man is so grateful he desires to go with “be with” Jesus.

1. Jesus turns down this man's request- Some might find that cruel – but Jesus has a good reason
2. Jesus told him to go to his home (immediate family) and family (lit., "to yours," your own people) from whom he had been estranged and...
3. Report to them all that the Lord, the Most High God (cf. 5:7; Luke 8:39) had done for him and how He had shown mercy on him.

How has Christ cleansed you? Those changes are not meant to stay hidden. Each fresh start is an opportunity – a chance to encourage others.

III. Commissioned to communicate (Mark 5:19–20)

Jesus final word to the man reveal the purpose of the healing - Go home and tell what the Lord has done

A. This is a direct command – (v. 19) Luke 8:39

B. Our calling - Matthew 28:19–20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:14–41; Acts 9:20; 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 12:11

C. Our stories are bridges - *Perhaps you've noticed how a friend's personal testimony can get through when arguments or facts can't.*

D. Think of your storytelling as a kind of hospitality. When you welcome someone into your life (even just for coffee), and you share your testimony, you are pouring out hope.

E. How can we “go home and tell?” *See everyday activities – a chat on the porch, a message, a social media post – as a platforms to tell your story.*

Conclusion: *Don't be a bystander in God's story. Like the healed man, we are commanded to go and tell. (Rev. 3:8)*