

Tell Your Story Mark 5:1-20

Jesus pursues people Mark 5:1-13

- **Jesus pursues** the outsiders, the “other-siders” (v.1)

“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’ All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations, a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of impure meat; who say, ‘Keep away; don’t come near me, for I am too sacred for you!’” (Isaiah 65:1-5)

“**Prevenient Grace**”: God takes the initiative in turning to human beings.

- **Jesus pursues** those we might never go after, those who are too far gone (v.2-5) (cf. Matthew 8:28; Luke 8:27) “...and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain...” (v.3)
- **Jesus pursues** the deeper, spiritual problems (v.6-13) “And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.” (v.13)

“The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

Jesus transforms people Mark 5:14-17

- **Transformation can happen** in your story, chains can be broken (v.15) “They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the ‘legion’...”
- **Fear can drive** us to resist the transformation Jesus wants to bring (v.17) “...and they became frightened.”

The work of Jesus in your life IS your story. Tell it. Mark 5:18-20

- The community begs Jesus to leave, **this man begs to be with Jesus** (v.18) “As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him.” (v.18)
- **Testimonies and biographies** (v.19-20) “And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what **great things Jesus had done for him**; and everyone was amazed.” (v.20)

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

The Sea of Galilee. It's much more a lake than a sea: 33 miles around, 13 miles north to south, 8 miles east to west. At about 700 feet below sea level it is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth. Just an afternoon boat ride across this lake, Jesus and His disciples enter alien turf. They went to "the other side." The northern half(ish) of the lake representing, according to Jewish mindset, "our side" or the "Jewish, kosher, religiously correct side." The southern half(ish) was known as where the Gentiles resided, "the other side." What would Jesus be doing on "the other side" amongst 2,000 swine and a demoniac?

He came to tell His message.

Jesus' ministry extended throughout the land of Israel, but there is an interesting correlation to the miracles He performed and the subsequent command to either stay quiet, or, go and proclaim. In Mark 5, Jesus did not apply the prohibition against telling others who He was to the Gentiles. He instead told the man He delivered to go out and proclaim the message. Luke records this account and says the man "begged that he might be with Him....Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and **declare how much God has done for you**'" (Luke 8:38-39).

Most of the time Jesus told people NOT to tell. Matthew 9 tells us about two blind men Jesus healed. It says, "And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, 'See that no one knows about it'" (Matthew 9:30). Mark 1 tells of a leper who was healed. "Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, 'See that you **say nothing to anyone**, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them'" (Mark 1:43-44). But later in Mark, in fact, the passage we will go through next week, Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead and her parents were astonished, but He "strictly charged them that **no one should know**" about it (Mark 5:43). When Jesus healed a man who was deaf and mute, He charged the entire crowd to tell no one. "But the more He charged them," it says, "the more zealously they proclaimed it." (Mark 7:36)

Here's the question and your opportunity to dig a little deeper. Go through these accounts listed above and find others, and follow the times that Jesus does a miracle, look into what He tells the person after the miracle, but even more importantly, what side of the lake is Jesus on or where is He in Israel proper? Who is His audience? Figure this out and you are one step closer to understanding the mind and heart of Jesus. Here are some good passages to get you started: **Matthew 8:1-5; Matthew 9:18-38; Mark 1:29-45; Luke 5:12-16; Luke 8:40-56.**

1. We are not under the same obligations as those Jesus was talking to 2,000 years ago. As Jesus left Earth, He commanded His followers to go out and make disciples and tell others about Him. Who are you telling?
2. What does "the other side" represent for you? Where are the places you wouldn't normally go and who are the people you wouldn't normally talk to that God may be calling you to go reach out to?
3. What is your story? What has Jesus done in your life to transform you? Have you stopped to take notice of how your life has changed? Has it been a long time since you've seen change in your life?

Next Steps:

SHARE YOUR STORY: As we follow Jesus together and face common struggles along the way, we believe sharing our stories will encourage the faith, hope, and love of others in our community and even around the world. Consider sharing your story with our church family of the transforming work of Jesus in your life. You can pick up a "Tell Your Story" sheet at the Calvary Story wall in the Lobby or share it on our website at calvarylife.org/story

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES: To whom can you reach out and tell about the great things coming up this summer? Check out today's bulletin for highlights of special events and ministry activities including:

- Church Picnic | June 10
- Neighborhood Day Camp | June 18-22
- Campus by the Sea | June 24-30 or July 1-7
- Following Jesus Together | Sundays 11am or Wednesdays 7pm
- Women's Summer Book Club | June 22 or July 20
- Shipwrecked VBS | July 23-27

