

I Will Tell Of Jesus.

Text: Mark 5:19

Suggested Hymns:
224, 234, 373, 221

- 1) Because Jesus Has Done Great Things For Me
- 2) Because Jesus Wants to
Continue to Do Great Things in the World Today

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is Mark 5:19, *tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.* (NKJV)¹

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

The Gospel story from which the text is taken tells the story of great tragedy and glorious triumph. First, there is the man who lived in the limestone caves where people buried their dead. He had been driven to madness by the evil spirits that possessed him. Day and night his shrieks sounded through the countryside. He cut himself with stones and spattered himself with blood.

Then, there were the people of the Gadarene city who, though normal, also were under the rule of the prince of this world. They asked Jesus, their only Saviour and their only Source of happiness, to leave them alone.

Our world today, near and far, is tragically unhappy. The horrors of wars and the tyranny of governments have killed and injured many people and this has become a gruesome part of life. The world today still refuses to come to Jesus and plead for Him to stay with them and help them.

To such unhappy people of this world the Saviour is to be brought. You and I are to bring Him to them. Each one of us is to declare *"I Will Tell of Jesus."* May the Lord bless our meditation.

1. I Will Tell Of Jesus Because Jesus Has Done Great Things For Me

When Jesus stepped on the shore of the Gadarenes, the devil knew Him at once. *"What have I to do with You?"* he said, *"Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."*² Jesus is the Judge

before whom he bows to the ground. And the devil knows the time has come when Jesus will break his destructive hold on man.

Jesus had come to rescue the man possessed of demons. Jesus had stilled the storm the day before. Now He who is the Lord of wind and wave, of heaven and earth, of men, of swine, and of demons — He commands — for He has come that ***“He might destroy the works of the devil”***³ — ***“Come out of the man, unclean spirit!”*** And by His word Jesus strikes like Samson and puts to flight the whole legion of this man’s enemies.

The man has been set free. As He is clothed outwardly, so the garment of Christ’s righteousness covers his soul. The clean Spirit of God has made him His temple. The man is sitting at the feet of Jesus. In Jesus he has found help of soul, of body, and of mind. Jesus has done great things for him.

Jesus has done great things for us.

Like this man, we have been rescued from the devil. For when we sin, we are of the devil. And without the help of Jesus we through fear of death would all our lifetime be in bondage to the devil.

But Jesus, the Conqueror of sin, death, and the devil, has stepped into our life. Through His blood and righteousness He has cleansed us from sin. He has brought to us life to take away death. He has brought to us deliverance from the devil. You and I have been delivered from everything evil to have in Jesus everything good.

Our Deliverance Moves Us to Want to Help Others.

The friends of the healed man felt no deep concern for others. They thought two thousand swine too big a price to pay for the welfare of a man. It seemed nothing to them that a man had been delivered from a terrible bondage.

“We must eat,” they would say. They desire to get fat in body and in heart. Food was first in their life, and in this respect they became more like the herd feeding on the hillside than like the children of God, to whom food and clothing is just something added to the life that God gives them.

The healed man knew that the rescue of one soul was worth more than many herds. This truth had been burned deeply into his heart by what he had gone through. He had experienced what torture it is to be in the devil’s hands and how

precious it is for anyone to be rescued from him and to have life and salvation in Jesus.

This appreciation of what Jesus had done for him stirs him to try with all his might to bring to others the help of Christ as he knows it. From now on all that fierce strength which before this was wasted in breaking chains, fighting the guards, cutting himself, uttering yells of horror, is given to the rescue of others.

The great things Jesus has done for us make us want to tell of Jesus to others. Let us think for a moment how lost and hopeless we would be without Jesus; let us see in His crucified body how precious He thought our souls; let us count the wonders that He has brought to our hearts by cleansing it in His blood — then we must consider the souls of other people precious and their deliverance our first task in life.

Since Jesus died to rescue us, we live to rescue others. And the power, energy, time, and money that as an unbeliever we would have wasted in sin and for this world, we will use to bring life and joy to men.

Are we Equipped to Help Others?

The healed man could not have had much schooling or much knowledge of the Bible. He had no experience with people which would help him to deal tactfully with them. Was he fit to tell others of the Saviour? People knew him as a crazy man. Surely, his handicaps, at least some, were such as to make him think that he was not equipped to do mission work.

But Jesus doesn't do this. He puts him to work at once. He says, "***tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.***" Just that. Show yourself to them with the scars on your mistreated body, a cured man, a changed life, in your right mind, in your cleansed soul, a monument to God's love and His power to save, and say, "*Jesus, that is, God, in His mercy does this. He rescues from the devil.*"

"*Can I be a missionary?*" you ask. If Jesus could make a missionary out of this madman who went speaking of His Saviour in every corner of his home town, in the scattered farmhouses, over the hills and in the valleys, then He can make a missionary like that out of me and you.

“I can’t do much; I am no preacher; I haven’t had the schooling; I think others ought to do this mission work.” You’ve heard it; perhaps you have said it. Jesus tells you, ***“Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.”***

Don’t try to preach a sermon or build up a big argument for your faith, for the Bible, or for Jesus. Just tell them what Jesus did for you: *“I am a sinner. Jesus made me clean from sin. He still takes away my sin and declares me righteous. He took me out of the kingdom of the devil and put me into the kingdom of God. He gives me heaven. And that makes me happy.”*

Just tell that to your family, to your friends, in the city, in the country, everywhere.

2. I Will Tell Of Jesus Because

Jesus Wants to Continue to Do Great Things in the World Today

For Us. — The healed man wants to go with Jesus. He begs Jesus to let him come into the boat in which Jesus was leaving. He knew that if he was with Jesus the devil could not come back to fill him again with that inward hell. He knew that if he went with Jesus he wouldn’t be mocked by those who had seen him in his madness. And he would be happy in doing anything for which Jesus might need him.

His desire to be with Him pleased Jesus. In this whole territory this one man loved Him. And Jesus loved the man. In His love for him Jesus tells him, ***“Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.”*** Certainly Jesus told him this partly for his own good. He would himself be the happiest person if he brought the Saviour to others.

We Christians enjoy our Saviour as we sit in church and listen and sing and pray. At the feet of our Saviour we are happy; we know that our Deliverer is with us; and we know that in His presence no one can harm us.

But if that is all, we should know that we have only a beginner’s timid taste of happiness. Our greatest Christian joy is likely to be found, not only upon our knees or facing the altar, but facing the world and dealing with our fellow men and showing them what great things God has done for us and for them.

For Others. — Jesus wants to do great things for others. ***“Tell them,”*** Jesus says. The people in this land needed energetic help. They had no Saviour.

When the Saviour came to them and might have stayed with them, they asked Him to go away.

This request came by a unanimous decision of the farmers and of the people in the city, and the decision meant the greatest loss for them. While the Gospel truth was shining on them in the form of the healed man sitting at the feet of Jesus, these people did not know the time of God's visitation; they did not know how near heaven had come to them.

They had suffered a great loss of swine, two thousand of them. They were filled with the fear that they might lose the rest of their swine. And their swine were dearer to them than the truth, than Jesus, than heaven. They therefore joined the demons in asking Jesus to let them alone.

But the further they were gone in their sin, the more they needed Jesus. Great things had to be done for them. And Jesus wants to help even those who like swine better than Him. Therefore Jesus sends them a missionary, the healed man.

This is still a world which doesn't want Jesus. It likes its swine, its pleasures, its eating and drinking and other earthly things too much. But the less the world wants Jesus, the more it needs to have the Saviour brought to it. We may feel happy here in church with Jesus; but out there in that wide world a job awaits us. Jesus says, "***Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.***"

Great Things. — In the business world it is tangible results that count. Not so in Kingdom work. Often results are not immediately visible. The healed man may have been a lonely missionary. And when the people saw him coming, they probably said, "***Here comes the madman from the country of the Gadarenes.***" The Gospel record says, "***all marveled.***"⁴ It does not say, "***They believed.***"

There are missionaries in the world today — and you may be one of them — who are working for Jesus, but can see no fruits. The people who hear what we are telling of Jesus may wonder and marvel about it. "***Interesting isn't it?***" they may say and then go their way. And when results of our work are seemingly lacking, we become discouraged. We may feel, "***What's the use?***"

But Jesus did do great things through the word of the healed man. This man may not have seen much fruit grow immediately from the seeds he planted; yet

there was fruit. For Jesus whom he had seen leaving in the boat was still with him in the word which he spoke to give it a rich success.

Such a living word he spoke to his family, to his friends, to the whole city, to the whole territory of the Ten Cities on that side of the Sea of Galilee. After 6 to 9 months Jesus came back into this territory of the Ten Cities,⁵ and then these people who had asked Jesus to leave came to Him in multitudes. There is only one explanation: This healed man had prepared the hearts of the people for Jesus.

Though Jesus has visibly left us and gone to heaven in a cloud, He is still with us in His Word. His Word in our mouth is powerful. His Word was powerful to drive the evil spirits out of this man. That Word has the power now, as you speak it, to rescue, to save, to do great things.

And there is success; if not outwardly, then inwardly; if not now, then later. When you tell of Jesus, people will not immediately fall on their faces and call Jesus Lord; yet the Word will conquer human hearts, so that people will believe in Jesus and have life in Him.

And soon, when Jesus comes again in the clouds, there will be multitudes of precious souls gathered around Him to welcome Him as their Saviour and King. And why? Because someone told them of Jesus and of the great things He does for us all.

“Be with us, dear Jesus. Give us joyful courage to tell of You and of the wonders of Your love.” Amen

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

¹ Cf. Mark 5:1-21; Matt. 8:28—9:1; Luke 8:26-40

² Mark 5:7

³ 1 John 3:8

⁴ Mark 5:20

⁵ Mark 7:31