

Life Group Study  
Enlightened Evangelism Part 2  
Week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021  
Study by Wayne Arcand

We do not all have the gift of evangelism, but we can all be witnesses and testify to what Jesus, our Lord and Saviour means to us. Each of us has a story about how we came to faith in Jesus. My story may not resonate with everyone, but it will resonate with those the Lord is bringing across my path. Remember Paul's writing in 1 Corinthians 3:6 *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."* Your witness may be planting the seed, or it may be watering the seed, but God will make it grow.

*Mark 5:<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup> Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." <sup>20</sup> So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.*

Read Mark chapter 5 to get the background for the passage above.

1. What had Jesus done for the man?
  - a. Why do you think the man begged Jesus to let him go with Jesus?
  - b. What did Jesus direct the man to do?
  - c. What was the result?

Jesus met the demon possessed man in his broken, demon possessed condition and set him free. Sharing our personal experience of how Jesus met our need when we were broken will resonate with the hearer. The focus is not on our need to share the gospel, but on the other person's situation and their need to hear what Jesus can do for them.

2. Take a few minutes and ask if someone in your group would be willing to share what Jesus has done for them.
  - a. What brought them to the point of turning to Jesus?
  - b. What difference has it made in their life?

**Mark 6:** <sup>1</sup>*Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? <sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> He was amazed at their lack of faith.*

3. In Mark 6:1-6, we find that Jesus was rejected by those who knew him best. They were amazed by his wisdom and miracles, and yet took offense at him.
  - a. Why do you think they took offense at him?
  - b. Was Jesus power to perform a miracle limited?
  - c. Why do you think Jesus chose not to perform miracles in his home town?
  - d. What role does faith have in seeing God work in our lives? (see Acts 3:16)

### **Mark 6: Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

<sup>6b</sup> Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. <sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

<sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

<sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

4. In both Mark 6 and Luke 10, when Jesus sent the disciples out, he sent them two by two. Read Luke 10:1-12, and notice the similarities in the two passages.
  - a. Why do you think Jesus sent them in groups of two?
  - b. What did they take with them?
  - c. Who were they totally dependent upon?
  - d. What did this require on the part of the disciples?
  - e. Is there a principle here that we can apply to our lives?
    - i. Is there something that you feel God is calling you to do that you have been putting off? Why?
5. Read Mark 6:11a *And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you,*
  - a. What does this phrase tell us the responsibility is of those who are sent?
  - b. What is the responsibility of the hearers?
6. Read Mark 6:11b *“leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them”* and then read Acts 13:46: *Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.*
  - a. From these verses can you see two consequences of not listening to God’s call on your life?
  - b. What is the warning that can be gleaned from these verses?

#### **For Reflection:**

I was raised on a farm and came from a large, loving, hard working, church going family. But, as a young man, I did not see the purpose of life. I thought that if all we were on this earth for was to work, play, raise a family, grow old and die - why go through it all. I felt there had to be more to life than this life cycle. It wasn’t until Jesus became a part of my life that I found purpose, peace, and contentment. I can not imagine a life without Jesus and the peace, purpose and hope of an eternal future that he gives me. That does not mean that it is always easy, but in the hard times I cling to Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”* What is your story? What hope do you have in Jesus that you can share with family, friends or that person the Lord has brought across your path who needs to know of the saving grace of Jesus.

I would encourage you to write your story out, think about what Jesus means to you, and pray that the Lord would give you discernment and wisdom in sharing your story at an appropriate time. You never know what impact the Lord may have on a life through your story.