

Dig Deeper – Go and Tell

8.23.26

Matthew 28:16-20 | Mark 5:1-20

Sunday AM

For the last few weeks, we've been looking at (4) invitations from Jesus that describe the life of a disciple. **Come and See** – encounter Jesus. **Follow Me** – walk w/ Jesus. And **Abide in Me** – live from His life. But none of these invitations were intended to end w/ us. Eventually Jesus turns towards us and says – now that you know me... **Go and Tell**.

SEE – Come/See brings us **to** Jesus. Follow Me teaches us to **walk w/** Jesus. Abide teaches us to **live from** Jesus. And Go/Tell sends us **out for** Jesus.

And one of the clearest pictures of it occurs in one of the most unusual stories in the ministry of Jesus.

In **Mark 5** we find Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee into Gentile territory where He encountered a man whose life had been devastated by a legion of demons. He lived among the tombs and was violent/wild. People had tried chains/shackles, but nothing worked. As a result, he was isolated from his family, alienated from his community, and tormented in every way.

Then Jesus arrived on the scene and everything changed. Jesus delivered him, and a little later the people who had known this man as uncontrollable found him sitting, dressed and in his right mind.

The man who'd been living among the dead was suddenly alive. The man nobody could control was suddenly at peace. The man everyone avoided was sitting at Jesus' feet – changed. So much so, that when Jesus prepared to leave, the man sought to go w/ Him.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go w/ Him. 5:18

Essentially, he said – Jesus, wherever You're going, I'm going too b/c I want to follow You. But instead of saying – **come on** – Jesus said – **I've a better plan**.

Jesus didn't 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. Mark 5:19

DMT – the man wants to go **WITH** w/ Jesus, but Jesus tells him to go **FOR** Him.

Sometimes the most obedient way to follow Jesus isn't getting into the boat w/ Him – it's going back into your world for Him to *tell how much God has done for you*.

And this is what the man did. Mark says he went thru-out the Decapolis – the (10) cities – to proclaim to others what Jesus had done for him. IOW – **his encounter w/ Jesus became his testimony about Jesus**. This is where **GO AND TELL** begins.

I **GO** Back into Your World

Go home to your own people... Mark 5:19

Jesus didn't immediately send this man across the Roman Empire. He sent him home. He sent him back to the people who knew him – his family, friends, neighbors, and community. His first mission field wasn't a foreign country – it was his relationships.

Sometimes we romanticize missions because it's easier to imagine sharing Jesus w/ a stranger 1,000 miles away than w/ someone who knows us personally. But Jesus said, *"Go home to your own people."*

DYR that your 1st mission trip may not require a passport but simply walking across the driveway.

Why? b/c the people closest to you know your story. They know who you were, and they can see what Jesus has done and is doing in you b/c a ***changed life always creates curiosity about the One who changed it.***

So, instead of asking – *where could God use me?* We should ask – *who has God already put around me?* B/c your mission field may be much closer than you think.

DYR that for most of us, the greatest mission-field map is already in your hand – your phone. Open your contacts. What if these aren't contacts but people who need Jesus or need encouragement in the Lord.

SEE – somewhere in this phone are people who know you, trust you, work w/ you, live near you, play golf w/ you, eat w/ you – and many of them need Jesus.

Your mission field may already be in your phone.

II **TELL** Others What Jesus has Done

Notice Jesus didn't send the man home w/ a theology examination. He said: *Tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.*

This is a testimony. Now, He didn't say – go explain every theological question or try to win every argument. Instead, he said – tell others what you know and experienced b/c you know what happened when Jesus met you. You know what Jesus has done.

This is Acts 1:8. We're called to be **witnesses**. The word describes someone who's seen/experienced something and then testifies to what he knows to be true by offering firsthand testimony/proof.

Think courtroom. The witness isn't the judge, jury, or prosecutor – nor is he the witness responsible for the verdict. He/she is a witness to say – here's what I saw. Here's what I heard. What I experienced. What I know.

This is freeing – b/c we don't have to know everything to tell someone what we do know – *I was lost, and Jesus found me. I was guilty, and Jesus forgive me.*

Likewise – our testimony doesn't have to be dramatic to be powerful – ***it just has to be true.*** And notice the witness of the healed man. It wasn't about how terrible the demons were or how bad his past had been – it was about how good Jesus is.

Point – being a witness is nothing more than one recipient of mercy telling another person where mercy can be found – *it's one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread.*

NOW – every believer should be able to communicate (3) things: *Who I was before Jesus. How I encountered Jesus.* And – *what Jesus is doing in my life today.*

Best part – we don't have to know everything about Jesus to tell someone what we know about Jesus.

III EMBRACE the Mission Jesus Gave You

Now take this picture from Mark 5 and fast-forward to the Matthew 28. Jesus has risen from the dead – and now His disciples likely have gathered at Mt. Arbel in Galilee where Jesus gave them their on-going mission:

Then the eleven went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the H.S., and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am w/ you always, to the very end of the age. 28:16-20

Notice where Jesus starts. Not w/ our ability but w/ our availability. DYK Jesus’ request likely required them to walk some 12 miles from Capernaum to Mt. Arbel, then hike up another 2 mile – about 2 hrs over 1,200 ft. to meet Jesus at the summit. That’s roughly the distance from our church to the downtown Newnan.

Would you have done it? Only if you believed Jesus was who He said He was and did what He said He’d do. See – they made themselves available b/c they were convinced Jesus had risen from the dead.

Then – when they arrived at the summit, it says they worshiped Him. I can assure you they weren’t singing Kum-ba-yah. They were loving Him w/ all of their heart, mind, soul, and strength.

And then, before sharing the mission, Jesus invited them to plug into His power thru the abiding life when He said – *all authority has been given to me* – implying that it’s accessible to His followers if we abide.

Meaning – if we get the first (3) things right – that we’re convinced of Jesus, love Him completely, and plug into His power to abide, then, and only then, are we ready, under the leading of the H.S. (*lo I am w/ you always*), to engage the mission to making disciples.

Also teaching us that a disciple is **more than a convert** – a disciple is one who by faith is available to God, has affection for God, chooses to abide in God’s power, to live for His mission, while relying on the H.S. to guide.

This is understood by the Greek word – **matheteuo** – it refers not to someone who trusts **THEN** obeys but to someone who trusts **AND** obeys.

This means the G.C. isn’t just making converts. It’s far more than getting a person to pray a prayer or raise a hand. God wants them to follow Jesus, walk w/ Jesus – to do as Jesus did.

And this is where these (4) invitations come full circle. To be/make a disciple mean helping others to come/see Jesus – so they might follow Jesus – and learn to abide in Jesus – so they’re empowered and equipped to go/tell others about Jesus.

And yet – some of us have disqualified ourselves b/c we think – we don’t know enough. Or, it’s not our calling. Or, that we’ve not been a Christian long enough – or that we might mess it up.

But let’s consider the man in Mark 5. How long had he been a believer? Hours. What’s his theological training? Zero! How much Scripture did he know? Not much if any (he was a Gentile). What’s he got? Only a personal encounter w/ Jesus and a story to tell. And yet – Jesus told him to – GO!

Here’s the principle: You may not know everything about Jesus, but if you know Jesus, you know enough to introduce Him to someone else.

IV **DEPEND** on God's Power and Presence

At this point, you might say – I understand the mission, but I'm scared. Good. B/c Jesus never expected you to accomplish His mission in your strength.

Matthew 28 ends – *and surely, I am w/ you always, to the very end of the age.*

Acts 1:8 begins – *You will receive power when the H.S. comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost.*

Put those together. Matthew 28 gives us the **mission**. Acts 1 shows us the **power**. Meaning Jesus is sending us – and promises to go w/ us thru the H.S. Meaning the G.C. is explicitly connected to a Spirit-empowered witness – not just us doing things in God's name.

SO – we're not called to ***convince***, ***convict***, or ***convert*** people – we're only called to take the initiative to ***convey*** the message when the H.S. prompts us.

But what if they reject me? Love them anyway. What if they ask something I don't know? Say – *I don't know, but I'll find out.* What if nothing happens? Trust that God may be doing something you can't see.

Listen – we're responsible for the witness. God is responsible for the results.

So, instead of walking into every conversation thinking – *how can I turn this conversation toward Jesus?* Start praying – *H.S. what are You already doing in this person's life, and how can I join You?* Then – listen. Ask questions. Care. Pray. Watch. And when God opens the door – walk thru it.

WHAT DO WE DO

Let's make this practical. Take out your phones. I want you to identify (5) people God has already placed in your world who need Jesus or need to return to Him. Type their names in your notes. And do (4) things:

PRAY for them consistently. Ask God to soften their hearts and open doors.

PURSUE them relationally. Don't treat them like projects, but love them b/c Jesus loves them.

SHARE your story naturally and engage in spiritual conversation. Tell them what Jesus has done for you.

INVITE them to Jesus. Invite them to Come/See. Invite them to church. Invite them to read the Gospel of John w/ you. Invite them to trust Christ.

Now – let's go back to that shoreline in Mark 5 one last time. Just hours earlier, this man's life was controlled by darkness – but now he's free. He wants to go w/ Jesus. But Jesus says – *go home. Find your people. Tell them what I've done for you.* And he went.

One man. One encounter. One story.

The man nobody wanted around became the man Jesus sent around. And the same Jesus who says **Come and See** says **Follow Me**. He who said **Follow Me** says **Abide in Me**. And eventually, the Jesus who calls us to Himself turns us toward a world that desperately needs Him and says: **GO AND TELL.**

B/c the Gospel that came **to you** was never intended to stop w/ you. **Jesus intends for it to go thru you.**

NOW – maybe you've been listening to all of this thinking this is a message about what Christians are supposed to do. But your invitation today isn't Go/Tell. Your invitation is **Come/See**. Maybe today is the day you stop standing at a distance and trust Him.