



Welcome!

2022 LENTEN SERIES: KEEP GOING!
Today's Message: Keep Telling
Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Listening Lord, we're determined this Lent to *keep telling*. We recognize all that you have done for us, and we are grateful. Empower us now to tell our family, friends, neighbors, and associates what you have done in our lives. Make us an illustration of your infinite mercy. In the abiding, awesome, and amazing name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Share one subject that you talked about several times this week and why.

INTRODUCTION: In this story about the Kingdom of God in Mark 5, it becomes increasingly clear that humanity—its society and institutions—impede the in-breaking of God's kingdom more than it expedites it. God's kingdom breaks into the world in a way that is transformative, and those who are transformed by it are charged and challenged to tell it first at home, then everywhere else.

SCRIPTURE: Read St. Mark 5:1-20 (NIV)

DISCUSSION:

1. What stood out in today's message? What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. Re-read v. 2-5. Describe this man before Jesus encounters him. What do you think he looked like? What does he do all day? What do the people in town think about him? If the Lord can change *him*, why are we prone to think of others as "too far gone?" Before you object, "I don't think that way!" Consider, what do our actions toward the lost prove we believe about their possibility of following Jesus?
3. This story is meant to be understood in context, like all of Scripture. It's no accident that it immediately follows the story of Jesus calming the storm. Now, Jesus calms an *internal* storm. While you probably don't have a story like this man does, what are some examples of *internal* storms from which Jesus has freed you?
4. This story would have been especially difficult for a Jewish person to appreciate. It's full of unclean things. It takes place in Gentile territory, with a man so demon possessed he's chained up in a graveyard and cutting himself (death, blood, etc.). Essentially, it's Jesus saving the worst of the worst from the worst part of town. In what ways has God been kind enough to reveal some areas of prejudice in your life? Has God revealed/changed the way you think about people from certain backgrounds, races, income levels, or occupations?

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5. Re-read v. 16-17. Like the disciples, the townspeople witnessed a miracle – but their response didn't lead to faith, at least not initially. Why do you think that is? Have you ever experienced the irony of wanting God to show up in your life but then not liking how God chose to do so?
6. Re-read v. 18-20. How did the newly freed man respond when Jesus gave him a different ministry assignment than what he originally wanted to do? How does that compare to the way we react when God doesn't say yes to what we initially want? What was the ultimate result of this newly freed man's faithfulness?

CHALLENGE: What is one “a-ha” moment you had in our group discussion today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week's message, how would the next week be different for you?

SERVE: How is God calling us to live out this message this week? As individuals? As a group?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

A large, solid red heart is positioned behind the text 'We Care!', with the heart's center overlapping the letter 'e'.

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE GRADUALLY REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

EMAIL:

Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org

SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org

Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org

Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org

Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org

Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org

Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org

Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: Barnabas@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*