

NOTES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PURSUE THE HOPELESS

SERMON SUMMARY

In Mark 5, Jesus sends the formerly demon-possessed man back to his own people with a mission: tell others how much God has done for him. The sermon teaches that true joy and purpose are found when we pursue the hopeless, share our stories with conviction, and make God's mission our own. Every follower of Jesus is uniquely called to point people toward Him—whether through serving the church, leading others, or impacting their community—by boldly proclaiming God's mercy and transforming power.

KEY POINTS

- True joy is found in pursuing what brings God joy.
 - We naturally pursue things that make us happy, but followers of Jesus are called to pursue the Father's will. God's desire is that people far from Him would find hope and salvation.
- Jesus calls us to pursue the hopeless.
 - When Jesus tells the healed man to go to "your own people," He sends him back to those who are spiritually lost, broken, and far from God. Our mission is not to stay comfortable with Jesus in the boat but to reach those who need Him.
- Your story is one of your greatest tools for ministry.
 - Jesus tells the man to go and tell others what God has done for him. God often uses ordinary people sharing their personal experiences of His grace to impact others.
- Share your story with conviction, not just information.
 - The difference between merely telling and truly proclaiming is conviction. People are drawn to authentic faith when they hear someone passionately testify to God's goodness and mercy in their life.
- Every believer has a unique calling to point people to Jesus.
 - While all Christians share the same mission, each person has a unique way of living it out—through serving the church, leading others, influencing their workplace, family, community, or sphere of influence for Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. In Mark 5, Jesus tells the healed man to go back to “his own people” instead of staying with Him. Why do you think Jesus sent him back home, and what does that teach us about our mission today?**
- 2. The sermon challenged us to pursue what brings God joy rather than simply what brings us joy. What are some things that compete for first place in your life, and how can you better align your priorities with God's heart?**
- 3. When you think about your faith story, what are some specific ways God has shown you mercy, changed you, or provided for you? How comfortable are you sharing that story with others?**
- 4. The sermon emphasized sharing our stories with conviction rather than just information. What is the difference between knowing facts about God and speaking from personal experience with Him?**
- 5. Who are the "hopeless" people God may be calling you to pursue right now? What is one practical step you can take this week to encourage, serve, or share your faith with them?**