

February 25th – Go and Tell

“And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.’ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.” (Mark 5:18-20)

In Mark 5 we’re introduced to one of the most fascinating stories in the Bible. Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee with the disciples, and when He stepped on the shore a man who was severely demon-possessed came out to meet Him. Later, when Jesus asked about the demons’ identity, they identified themselves as “Legion, for we are many” (Mark 5:9). We can’t know for certain how many demons there were, but it took 6,000 soldiers to make a Roman legion. Imagine all those demons!

The demons begged Jesus not to torment them. Why? Because even the Devil and every demon of hell know that they are on borrowed time. They know it won’t be much longer until Jesus banishes them to hell forever. Jesus honored the demons’ request and permitted them to enter a herd of swine that was stationed on top of a hill. The swine were so overwhelmed by the demons that they ran into the Sea of Galilee, departing from the man who we call the Gadarenan demoniac.

After the man was set free of the demons, he “begged Him that he might be with Him.” I wonder if we’re that desperate to spend time with God. Jesus must’ve loved the man’s passion, but He had a different assignment for Him – “Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.” The man got the message – he spread the message of Jesus throughout all the Decapolis (10 cities). If Jesus has saved you and set you free, who are you telling? Don’t keep the good news to yourself!