

Our Call to Mission

Mark 5:1-20 NIV *There are 12 deliverances given in the book of Mark and in my next message we will talk about how to deal with the demonic, but today's emphasis will be on our mission.

- I. The Demoniac's story.
 - a. We don't know how long he was this way, but Luke's gospel says it was long. The woman bent over was that way for "18 long years". Every day oppressed by evil is a long day! *He was cutting himself – the enemy hates us and wants us to hate ourselves. Cutting today – beautiful young people who God loves are being lied to and agreeing with the enemy.
 - b. We aren't told how it started – was it generational, was it his own sins, or what combination? We know that he can no longer help himself, and we know that there is no human help left – he lives among the dead.
 - c. When the Prince of life comes to his shore, he has enough of himself left to bring all of hell to the feet of Jesus. However dark you may be, you are at church today! Jesus is here to and He is on a mission to set you free!!!
- II. The mission of Jesus.
 - a. Luke 4:18-19 NIV "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." *This is why He came – to untie the works of the devil – it doesn't matter how many demons – He has the power and authority to free us. *Some of the testimonies of our freedom team – "This is only the beginning..." The next time I speak the whole freedom team will be part of the ministry afterwards.
 - b. His focus should be our focus. John 9:1-4 NIV "As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." *Not positive in a negative world; redemptive in a broken world. We don't have to explain and lay blame – bring the mess to Jesus – He is our answer.
 - c. Not just freedom from darkness; a new beginning. "The year of the Lord's favor." The year of Jubilee – everyone got a do over. All debts were cancelled.
 - i. David – Uriah, Michal, his mom, Samuel, Saul – Nathan's words – He has made your sins as white as snow. *The chorus and the snow falling on all of us.

- ii. Not just my forgiveness, but a new beginning for everyone. A willingness to forgive those who have hurt us. A revolution of forgiveness for the human race.

III. Our mission.

- a. Isaiah 61:3-4; 7 NIV "...to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations....6a And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God... 7 Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours." *Those who were captives and ashamed will now be anointed with God's oil to be His ministers of reconciliation.
- b. His call – the demons have their request granted; the townspeople have their request granted, but the one freed is denied his request – He is given his mission from Jesus. *He's the first cross-cultural missionary – the first sent to the Gentiles.
 - i. Tell them of God's power.
 - ii. Tell them of God's mercy. *Rev. 19:10
- c. Our call comes from Him:
 - i. Called to reach the world together – Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:19 – His last command must be our first concern. Vs 20 teach them to obey all I have commanded you.
 - ii. Each of us has a place in the harvest we must take. Matt. 9:36-38 He is the Lord of the harvest and He directs it. *Missions conference – Bernie Norland who is now with the Lord. "No one can do more than the will of God."
 - iii. Dwight and Lyn Lagore's story – Chris and I will go there in October sent by City Church.
- d. Part of our mission is to send those called to the uttermost parts of the earth. Romans 10:14-15 NIV "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
 - i. Our missionaries are coming – they are part of our family! We get a chance to love on them by listening to them.
 - ii. Missions committee holds them up all year long – Tuesday night we pray over them.

- iii. Financially - \$300,000 – our goal for this year.
- e. They are on a budget like you are, so we raise the money both by gifts and pledges for the coming year so they have confidence for their future.
 - i. Above your normal giving.
 - ii. God will invite all who are willing to participate – no fear, we are pledging what He will provide. “He gives seed to the sower.” (2Corinthians 9)
 - iii. Members will receive a letter and a pledge card this week; non-members can pick up a pledge card on the giving tables in the next two weeks, and on the second week there will be a pledge card in the program.
 - iv. In two weeks we will each hold the card in our hands and ask God specifically what our part is.
 - v. A few weeks after that we will report the final number that has come in as gifts or pledges, and rejoice together at God’s provision for our missionaries!