

# TELL YOUR STORY

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Luke 8:37-39 (NLT) And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. <sup>38</sup> The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, <sup>39</sup> “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

**Introduction:** Have you ever noticed how much impact a personal story can have? Why are we moved and drawn in by experiences others share? Because stories carry weight, especially when they are personal and real.

The story of this man possessed by a legion of demons is one of the most heartbreaking pictures of the human condition and at the same time, one of the most powerful demonstrations of God’s amazing grace and mercy in all the Gospels.

When Jesus encountered him, he was stripped of his dignity, isolated from his family, living among the tombs. He was tormented day and night, bound in chains that could not keep him, crying out in pain, and cutting himself in despair. By every human standard, he was beyond hope an outcast, a danger to others, and a prisoner to his own brokenness.

And yet, this is precisely the kind of person Jesus came to save. In an instant, with just a word of authority, Jesus drove out the legion of demons and set this man completely free.

The same man who had been feared by the community was suddenly clothed, in his right mind, and sitting peacefully at the feet of Jesus. What human strength could not accomplish in years, the mercy of Christ accomplished in a moment.

This story reminds us that no one is too far gone, no life is too broken, and no heart is too hardened for the grace of God to reach. The darker the situation, the more clearly His light shines. This man’s transformation is a testimony not only of the power of Jesus over evil but also of His compassion for the most desperate and forgotten.

And what did Jesus tell him to do? He didn’t invite him to travel with the disciples. He said, “Go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” (Luke 8:39).

**Notice:** Jesus didn't tell him to preach a sermon. He didn't tell him to memorize Scripture first. He simply said, "Go tell your story." And that's exactly what he did. The man's story spread throughout his whole town, pointing people to the power of Jesus.

His deliverance became his story, and his story became his mission. Every one of us has a story, a testimony of what God has done in our lives. It may not sound as dramatic as the man delivered from a legion of demons, but it's still yours. And because it's yours, it's powerful.

Your story carries the evidence of God's grace at work in you. It may be a story of how Christ saved you, how He carried you through a trial, how He answered a prayer, or how He gave you peace in the middle of chaos. Whatever it is, your story matters because it points people back to Jesus.

Don't underestimate it. Someone around you is waiting to hear it. Someone needs to know that if God could do it for you, He can do it for them too.

## Four Keys to Sharing Your Story

### 1. Believe Jesus can change lives

Your testimony begins with this conviction: Jesus made a difference in my life, and He can make a difference in yours.

Another example is the Samaritan woman at the well. When Jesus revealed the truth about her life, five husbands and now living with a man who was not her husband, she was amazed by His honesty and grace. She immediately went back to her town, told everyone her story, and invited them to come meet the man who told her everything she had ever done.

John 4:40-42 (NLT) When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay in their village. So he stayed for two days, <sup>41</sup>long enough for many more to hear his message and believe. <sup>42</sup>Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not just because of what you told us, but because we have heard him ourselves. Now we know that he is indeed the Savior of the world."

This woman's life was completely transformed in a single encounter with Jesus. In one moment, shame was replaced with hope, and her emptiness was filled with living water. And because she had experienced this life-changing grace, she couldn't keep it to herself. If Jesus could do it for her, she wanted everyone else to know that He could change their lives too.

**The Point:** When you believe that Jesus truly changes lives, you won't be able to keep it to yourself. Like the Samaritan woman, your testimony can spark faith in others, because what Jesus did for you, He can do for them too.

## 2. Know God Wants to Use You

You don't have to be a preacher or a Bible scholar for God to use you. You just have to be willing. If I were to ask how many of you came to know Christ because of a family member or a friend, I'm sure a large percentage of hands would go up.

That's how God works. He places us in relationships that no one else can reach. You have influence with people that others don't, and God wants to use that influence for His glory.

Think about Peter. The very first time he met Jesus wasn't out on the boat when Jesus told him to cast his nets on the other side. It was earlier, when his brother Andrew came home, excited because he had encountered the Messiah, and brought Peter to meet Him.

John 1:42 (NLT) Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John, but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").

At the time, Andrew wasn't a preacher, an evangelist, or even what we would call a strong follower of Jesus. He was just beginning his own journey of faith. But he didn't wait until he had it all figured out. He simply let God use him in the moment, he went and told his brother about Jesus and brought him to meet the Messiah.

What Andrew didn't realize was that this simple act of obedience would change the course of history. His brother Simon, an ordinary fisherman, would become Peter, the fisher of men, the bold preacher at Pentecost, and one of the most powerful leaders in the early church.

The Point: You don't have to be a preacher, an evangelist, or have all the answers to make an eternal impact. You just must be willing to share Jesus. Andrew's simple invitation brought Peter to Christ, and God used Peter to help change the world.

## 3. See Who Needs to Hear it

When Cornelius, a Roman centurion, received a vision from God to send for Peter, he didn't keep it to himself. He gathered his household, relatives, and close friends so they could all hear the message of Jesus together. (Acts 10:24, 30-33)

Acts 10:24 (NLT) "They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends."

Cornelius identified the people in his circle who also needed to hear the truth. He made sure they were in the room when Peter came to share the gospel. As a result, not only Cornelius, but his entire household believed and received the Holy Spirit.

**The point:** Just like Cornelius, God has placed people in your circle who need to hear your story. Don't keep Jesus to yourself, invite your family, friends, and coworkers to experience Him too.

Who in your family, workplace, school, or neighborhood needs to hear what Jesus has done for you? Write their names down. Pray for them. Be ready to share.

#### 4. Care Enough to Speak up and Invite

John 1:43-46 (NIV) "The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, 'Follow me.' Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip."

Philip cared enough not just to follow Jesus himself but to go and invite Nathanael.

He didn't debate or argue—he simply extended a personal invitation: "Come and see."

That simple act of speaking and inviting opened the door for Nathanael to encounter Jesus personally.

John 1:47-49 (NLT) As they approached, Jesus said, "Now here is a genuine son of Israel, a man of complete integrity." <sup>48</sup> "How do you know about me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you." <sup>49</sup> Then Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, the King of Israel!"

**The Point:** Your invitation could be the bridge that helps someone meet Jesus. Like Philip told Nathanael, sometimes all it takes is a simple "Come and see."

The number one reason people come to faith or attend church for the first time is because someone they trust invited them, and often that invitation came wrapped in a personal story.

**Conclusion:** Your story may be the very thing God uses to lead someone to Jesus. Don't keep it to yourself, share it and let your story point others to His story.