

“Blessed and Inspired By A Man’s Testimony”

This Father’s Day message is about being blessed and inspired by a man’s testimony. Our testimony is not just about how God saved us, though that is certainly included. Our testimony is about what God is doing in our lives every single day. With God constantly at work in our lives we daily update our testimony.

Mark 5 records the story of Jesus delivering a man from a legion of demons. Jesus commanded the evil spirits to come out of this man and enter a nearby herd of swine. Possessed by the demons this herd of 2,000 pigs rushed down a steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the villagers came out to see what had happened, Mark 5:15 says they “...*saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind...*” Oh, what a difference the Lord makes in our lives! Jesus is the One who completely changes and transforms us! As Jesus was getting ready to leave the man who-had-been-demon-possessed begged to go with Jesus, but Jesus did not permit him. Instead, Jesus told him in Mark 5:19: “...*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.*”

Three times in the Book of Acts the story of the Apostle Paul’s conversion is recorded. But even the Apostle Paul’s story demonstrates that we have no control over how our testimony will or won’t affect others – our job is just to tell it. In Acts 22, when Paul was telling his testimony of conversion the crowd didn’t like something he said. They went from listening intently to shouting at the top of their lungs that Paul should die. In Acts 26, while Paul was telling his testimony of conversion before King Agrippa the king told Paul that he was out of his mind. That didn’t deter Paul, who then asked the king if he believed. Tragically, in Acts 26:28 King Agrippa replied, “...‘*You almost persuade me to become a Christian.*” Even the great Apostle Paul didn’t always persuade everyone to believe. But that was not his responsibility. His role was to tell, and let the Holy Spirit do the convincing.

Tell others what the Lord *has* done and *is* doing in your life. Only heaven knows how that will bless and inspire others!

Discussion Guide/Action Steps

1. What great things has the Lord done for you? How has the Lord had compassion on you? Are you sharing this wonderful news with others?
2. Are you telling and re-telling your story of conversion?