



A Spiritual Encouragement Message December 24, 2020

Testify

by Andrew Lemus

Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus said one of the most well-known Bible statements known to Christians. He told the Apostles to “Go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19). This great commission that was given to His Apostles and subsequently taught to all disciples is echoed loudly today. Want to see what the fulfillment of this great commission looks like? You don’t need to look much farther than the book of Acts (Acts 1:9, Eph. 1:20).



A few weeks ago our Brother Randal Jarrell preached a sermon, encouraging us to utilize a very effective way to share the gospel. What is this great, easy, and effective way to share the gospel? It is by sharing your personal testimony about how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you. Simple right? It is so effective we see the inspired Apostle Paul proclaiming his testimony to introduce the good news to those listening (Acts 9:1-20, 22:1-20, 25:23-26:23).

In the gospel of Mark we find a remarkable scenario of a man possessed by demons (Mark 5:1ff). This man, whom the people feared, was found night and day by the tombs and in the hills. He was so strong that even though people had bound him, he was able to wrench the chains and shackles apart. When Jesus arrives on the scene the man had gotten so strong that nobody had enough power to subdue him anymore! This sad and unfortunate soul was alone, crying out, cutting himself, without hope, and lost.

When the son of God arrived into the region we see this man, filled with the demons that possessed him, falling down and crying out before the Christ. In a remarkable display of His power and authority, we see Jesus commanding the spirits to come out of this man and permitting them to enter into a herd of two thousand pigs (2,000 PIGS!!). As a result, the demon-possessed man regained his faculties, put his clothes back on, and was back in his right mind. What a great picture of the power and authority of our remarkable Lord and the mercy He has for those lost and without hope.

The reason I bring this story up in this article about sharing our personal testimony with others is because of how this event closes. Look at what Jesus said to the man, what this man that was demon-possessed did, and how the people responded.

“As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.’ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled” Mark 5:18-20

In Mark 5:18-20 we see Jesus giving the commission to the healed man to go and share his testimony with others, a method of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ that is very effective. Jesus charged this man to go to his friends, tell them how much the Lord has done for him, and how he has had mercy on him. Words that can be echoed to those of us that the Lord has done so much for!

Share your testimony church. Paul did it, Jesus encouraged the demon-possessed man to do it, and we should do it today. It is a personal, emotional, and authentic way to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others. It is my prayer that your friends and family react the same way the demon-possessed man’s friends reacted, that they all marvel at the power, authority, goodness, and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.