

GO HOME AND TELL

**Jesus meets us in our brokenness, restores us,
and sends us with a story of mercy.**

[MARK 5:1–20](#)

Today we come to one of the most powerful stories in Mark's Gospel. It is the story of a man who was living in darkness. He was alone. He was wounded. He was feared by others. He was trapped by a power that he could not overcome.

Then Jesus came.

That short sentence changes the whole story: Jesus came. He crossed the lake. He stepped out of the boat. He entered a place others feared. He met a man whom everyone else had given up on.

Mark 5:1–20 shows us what Jesus does. He meets us in our brokenness. He sets us free. He restores our lives. Then he sends us out with a story of mercy.

The movement of this story is simple: from chains to mercy — and from mercy to mission.

First, there are chains. Then Jesus brings mercy. Finally, Jesus gives the man a mission: *“Go home and tell.”*

This is not only the story of one man long ago. In different ways, it can also be our story. It can become the story of our church and our community.

A LIFE TRAPPED IN DARKNESS

Alive, but living among the tombs

Jesus and his disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee and came to the region of the Gerasenes. This was Gentile land. As soon as Jesus left the boat, a man came from the tombs to meet him.

The man was alive, but he lived in a place of death. The tombs had become his home. A place meant for the dead had become the place where he spent his days and nights. His surroundings showed what had happened inside him. His life had become dark, lonely, and full of pain.

Alone, afraid, and beyond human help

He had been cut off from his family and community. People were frightened of him. They did not know how to help him, so they tried to control him. They treated him as a problem to be contained rather than a person to be loved.

That still happens today. When someone's pain is deep, we may step back because we do not know what to say or do. Fear can make us forget that a person still stands behind the pain, a person made in God's image.

Chains could not set him free

The people had used chains and shackles, but the man broke them. Human force could hold him for a time, but it could not heal him. Restraint is not restoration. Control is not freedom.

Some chains are made of iron. Other chains cannot be seen. Fear can be a chain. Shame can be a chain. Anger, addiction, grief, bitterness, painful memories, and the constant need to prove ourselves can all hold us. We can look calm on the outside while feeling trapped within.

“My name is Legion”

When Jesus asked the unclean spirit its name, it replied, *“My name is Legion, for we are many”* (Mark 5:9). The word “Legion” paints a picture of a life under occupation. The man's life had been taken over by forces he could not defeat.

The situation looked hopeless. The community could not change it. The chains could not change it. The man could not change it on his own.

But the story was not over, because Jesus was there.

He crosses the lake and every boundary

Jesus had crossed the lake into unfamiliar territory. He crossed a geographical boundary, a cultural boundary, and a religious boundary. He went where many people would not go, because someone there needed the mercy of God.

Jesus is always moving towards broken people. He does not wait at a safe distance and shout instructions. He comes near. He enters our real lives. He meets us where we are.

He enters the place others avoid

Jesus walked straight into the place everyone else avoided. He did not turn away from the tombs. He was not frightened by the man's cries. He was not put off by his appearance, his history, or his reputation.

This is what God is like. Jesus does not say, "Make yourself better, and then come to me." He says, "*Come to me.*" He meets us before we have sorted everything out.

He meets us in fear, shame, grief, and pain

Most of us do not live among physical tombs. But we may know other places that feel like tombs: a home filled with conflict, a room filled with loneliness, a mind filled with fear, a heart filled with grief, or a memory filled with shame.

Jesus comes into those places. He is not ashamed to meet us there. The light of Christ enters the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

No problem is too great for Jesus

The man had broken every human chain. Yet when he saw Jesus, he ran and fell before him. The powers that frightened everyone else knew who Jesus was. They knew that a stronger King had entered their territory.

Jesus said, "*Come out of this man, you impure spirit!*" (Mark 5:8).

Jesus did not speak with fear. He spoke with authority. A legion was no match for him. Whatever we face, Jesus is not frightened by the size of our problem. We may feel weak, but his power is greater. We may feel lost, but he knows where to find us.

The healing of this man points beyond itself. It gives us a picture of the greater victory Jesus would win through his death and resurrection.

Jesus announced that the kingdom of God had come near. Wherever he healed, forgave, restored, and set people free, God's good rule was breaking into a world wounded by sin, evil, fear, and death.

Jesus faced evil

At the cross, Jesus faced the full weight of human evil. He faced lies, hatred, violence, injustice, shame, suffering, and death. He did not run from them. He carried our sin and entered the deepest darkness of our world.

The cross tells us that God does not watch human suffering from a safe distance. In Jesus, God comes into it. He bears it. He takes it upon himself.

Love won

To those watching on Good Friday, the cross looked like defeat. Jesus was mocked, wounded, and killed. It seemed that violence had won and hope had died.

But the cross was not the defeat of God's plan. It was the victory of God's love. Jesus defeated evil, not by becoming more violent than his enemies, but by giving himself in love. He answered hatred with forgiveness and sin with mercy.

Jesus cried, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30).

He was not saying, "Everything has failed." He was saying, "The work has reached its goal." Sin had been faced. The power of evil had been broken. God's victory had been won.

Chains broke

What Jesus did for the man among the tombs, he did on a far greater scale at the cross. He faced the enemy. He broke the claim of darkness. He opened a new future for the world.

The cross says that our sin does not have the final word. Our shame does not have the final word. Evil does not have the final word. Death does not have the final word. Jesus has the final word — and his word is life.

After Jesus set the man free, the local people came to see what had happened. They found the man *“sitting there, clothed and in his right mind”* (Mark 5:15). Every part of that sentence matters.

Peace — no longer ruled by chaos

The man was sitting. Before, he had been restless and crying out among the tombs. Now there was calm. Jesus had brought peace into his chaos.

The peace of Jesus is more than a quiet feeling. It is the beginning of a life put back in order. It does not mean that every problem disappears at once. It means that we are no longer alone and no longer ruled by the storm within us.

Dignity: no longer exposed or shamed

The man was clothed. His shame was covered. He was no longer being treated as a frightening sight or a public problem. Jesus restored his dignity.

Jesus never reduces people to their worst moment. He does not call us by our failure, our illness, our addiction, our past, or the names others have given us. He sees the person whom God created and loves.

Identity: no longer defined by his wounds

The man was in his right mind. He had been given back to himself. His true identity was no longer hidden behind the powers that had controlled him.

Jesus gives us a new identity. Our wounds may be part of our story, but they do not need to become our name. In Christ, we are loved, forgiven, welcomed, and made new.

Restored for a purpose

The man wanted to get into the boat and go with Jesus. That desire makes sense. Jesus had rescued him, and he wanted to stay close to the one who had set him free.

But restoration was not the end of his story. Jesus had a purpose for his renewed life. The mercy he had received was about to become a mission.

“Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you” (Mark 5:19).

Jesus did not allow the man to join the boat. Instead, he sent him home. This was not a rejection. It was a calling.

Back to the people who know your story

Jesus sent him to the people who remembered what he had been like. They knew his past. They had heard his cries. Some of them may have been frightened of him. Others may have helped put chains around him.

Now they would see him standing before them in peace. The change in his life would give weight to his words. They could say, “We know what he was like, and now look at what Jesus has done.”

Back to ordinary places and daily life

The man’s mission did not begin on a platform. It began at home. It began among family, neighbours, streets, conversations, meals, and daily work.

We sometimes think that serving God must happen somewhere far away or in a special religious setting. But Jesus often sends us back into ordinary life. Home can be a mission field. The workplace can be a mission field. A friendship, a school, a café, a care home, or a neighbourhood can become a place where people see mercy.

Back as a partner in Jesus’ work

Jesus did not rescue this man simply so that he could escape the world. Jesus restored him so that he could join God’s work in the world.

The same is true for us. Grace is a gift, but grace also gives us a task. Jesus comforts us so that we can comfort others. He forgives us so that we can become people of forgiveness. He gives us hope so that we can carry hope into dark places.

Jesus rescues us, then sends us.

The man went away and began to tell people how much Jesus had done for him. Mark says that everyone was amazed (Mark 5:20).

He had no Bible college training. He had not followed Jesus for several years. He could not answer every question. But he knew what had happened to him.

You do not need all the answers

Many Christians are afraid to speak about Jesus because they think someone may ask a difficult question. It is good to learn. It is good to think carefully about our faith. But we do not need to know everything before we can tell our story.

A witness in a court does not need to know everything about the law. A witness simply tells what he or she has seen and experienced. In the same way, we can speak honestly about what Jesus has done in us.

Tell the truth

“This is what the Lord has done for me. This is the mercy I have received.”

Our story does not need to sound dramatic. We do not need to make it bigger than it is. A simple, honest story is powerful: “Jesus met me when I was lonely.” “Jesus helped me forgive.” “Jesus carried me through grief.” “Jesus gave me hope.” “Jesus is teaching me to pray.”

We should not pretend that every struggle has ended. We can say, “I am still on the journey, but I am not walking alone. Jesus is changing me.” That kind of honesty helps people see grace rather than a performance.

The place of pain becomes a place of witness

The man returned to the region where he had once been known for fear and destruction. Now he was known as someone who had received mercy. The place connected with his pain became the place where he spoke of Jesus.

God does not waste our story. He can use even painful parts of it to help someone else. Our scars can point to the healer. Our weakness can show the strength of grace. Our story can become our message.

We tell the story of Jesus with our words, but not only with our words. Our daily life should help people see what his mercy looks like.

Peace in angry places

Our world is full of anger. Families, churches, communities, and social media can quickly become places of harsh words and deep division. Jesus calls us to carry his peace into those places.

Being peaceful does not mean avoiding truth. It means speaking truth without hatred. It means listening before judging. It means refusing to answer cruelty with cruelty. A person shaped by Jesus can lower the temperature in a room.

Forgiveness in wounded families

Many families carry old hurts. One word can open a wound that has been there for years. The mercy of Jesus gives us power to begin a different way.

Forgiveness does not mean saying that evil does not matter. It does not always mean that trust is restored at once. It means that we place judgement in God's hands and refuse to let bitterness rule us. Sometimes the first step is a prayer: "Lord, make me willing to forgive."

Hope in difficult times

Christian hope is not pretending that everything is easy. Hope looks honestly at the darkness and still trusts that Jesus is Lord. The resurrection tells us that death and despair will not have the last word.

We sow hope through small acts: a prayer, a visit, a phone call, a meal, an encouraging message, or simply sitting with someone who is suffering. Small seeds of hope can grow in hard ground.

Care for others and speak boldly

Jesus calls us to notice people who are lonely, troubled, poor, or forgotten. We can pray for them, stand beside them, and offer practical help. Mercy must become visible.

We also speak of Jesus without shame. We do not force people or treat them as a project. We speak with gentleness, respect, and courage. We can simply say, “May I tell you why Jesus matters to me?”

Pray for the troubled. Stand beside the poor. Speak of Jesus without shame.

COME HONESTLY TO JESUS

This story began in a place of death, with a man in chains. It ends with that same man alive, restored, and telling others about mercy.

What changed his story? Jesus came.

Jesus came near. Jesus spoke with authority. Jesus set him free. Jesus restored his dignity. Jesus gave him a new purpose.

And the good news is that Jesus still comes near.

So come honestly to Jesus with your chains. Do not hide your fear. Do not cover your shame. Do not pretend that you are stronger than you are. Bring your real self to him.

Receive his mercy and restoring love. Let him bring peace where there is chaos, dignity where there is shame, and a new identity where life has been marked by wounds.

Then hear his call. He may send you back to familiar people and ordinary places. He may send you to someone who needs the hope you have received. You do not need a perfect speech. Tell the truth about his mercy. Show that mercy through your life.

Jesus has won. His kingdom has begun. Darkness does not have the final word. Your chains do not have the final word. Your past does not have the final word.

Jesus has the final word: *“Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.”*

Amen.

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