

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Luke 8:26-39

June 23, 2019

Tell how much God has done for you.

- This demon possessed-man - well known - notorious
 - ♦ chains couldn't hold him - violent - avoided him Mt. 8:29
 - ♦ demons in control - beyond human control
 - ♦ unclothed, living in tombs (indecent, shame) - isolated/anti-social
- ❖ What God did for this man was undeniable.
 - Recognized by towns people - shocked by change - afraid
 - ♦ The accounts of the herdsmen - match his new condition
 - ♦ It was clear - Jesus was a greater power than the *Legion*
 - The town treated Jesus like a mighty sorcerer - afraid
 - The man freed from demons knew Jesus as the Son of God
 - The Legion called Jesus *the Son of the Most High God*
 - God's Son rescued him. No one else could. He loved Jesus.
 - He wanted to honor Jesus and know more - go with Jesus
 - Jesus' mission: **Return home and tell how much God has done for you.**
 - ♦ Mark includes: *...and how he has had mercy on you.* Mk 5:19
 - ♦ Mark: *So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.* Mk 5:20
 - ♦ His before and after was stunning - real - undeniable
 - ♦ When Jesus returns in Mark 7 - they welcome Jesus and marvel
 - Jesus healed many - he did miracles to affirm he has God's approval
 - ♦ Jesus' work: rescue people from Satan's kingdom of darkness
 - Pity the condition of the captive - rescue from Satan
 - Jesus sent people to share the facts - reality - what God does. His love.

Tell how much God has done for you

- ❖ Consider what God has done for you. Tell others.
 - Testimonials gone wrong:
 - ♦ Competing - my rescue is more amazing than yours.
 - As if bragging about how bad I was.
 - If it draws attention to self - not Jesus - it misses the mark.
 - ♦ Subjective - emotional: That's nice, but I don't need that - irrelevant

- Testify first to what Jesus has done for everyone
 - ♦ Captive to desire, guilt, fear, darkness, hopelessness - universal
 - ♦ Jesus died to remove all guilt and its power to enslave.
 - ♦ The fear of consequences and punishment for wrong is real
 - The demon's plea to avoid the Abyss - it's horrible - sheer terror
 - In mercy God doesn't want any human to end up there
 - All who die captive to wickedness - hostile to God - that's their home
 - Fools say, *I'll wait until I die to see if it real, then deal with it.* Too late!
 - Those dismissive of hell - need to hear the fear of the demons.
- Consider what God has done for you - Baptism and God's Word
 - ♦ The sure hope of heaven. Total release from fear of the Abyss.
 - ♦ You know where to take guilt and fear - to Jesus.
 - ♦ You know where to turn to replace darkness with God's light.
 - ♦ What God has done for you - growth in the word and faith.
- If you don't know what to say:
 - ♦ Take time to think. Ask others how God's word has changed you.
 - ♦ Take time to tell the story. Inform your lips and tongue.
- If change and growth is lacking - is God ineffective? No!
 - ♦ Imagine how you would deal with life without Jesus.
 - ♦ Make the faith more your own. It will change you.
 - ♦ Wake up to the change and improvement God wants to work.
 - ♦ The more you talk about God's work - the more it works in you.
 - Avoid: *It's so cool. It's fun.*
 - Say: *God gave me... God worked in me... God showed me - opened my eyes*

The more you know your natural condition - your own sin & its struggle - the problems, fears, worries, and guilt common to all people - the more you see the power of God's mercy in Jesus. The more you know what others need to hear - what God has done for them in the Son of the Most High God - your Lord Jesus, the more you'll...

Tell how much God has done for you.

It will be clear - undeniable - God did it. Others will want God's work.