



The Call to Make Disciples

Brandon Werner – September 13, 2015

Intro:

- **Today marks the end of the Shamita on the Jewish calendar.**
 - Many signs of the end times are happening this month: including a super blood moon that will be visible in Jerusalem.
- **This past week, Iran’s supreme leader said, “There will be no such thing as Israel in 25 years.”**

Picture / Pause

- **Freedom Tower & White House lit up like rainbow – Real rainbow the day before 9/11 (pictures)**
- **Are we ready to listen up, church? The end is coming. Many will be deceived. Some of you may be deceived if you do not take this seriously.**
 - Jesus warned about deception 3x in Matthew 24
 - Many will come claiming to be Jesus. They will do impressive signs.
 - How will you know what to believe?
 - There is only one way for Christians to recognize and counter deception – God’s Word

SPOKEN Theme Logo.

- **The Word of God must become our authority for what we believe and what we practice!**
 - We cannot afford to take this lightly.
 - The world is becoming more and more deceived (a sign of the end).
- **Our Enemy – The Devil.**
 - Recognize choice weapon - deception
 - Counter with the Word, which is sharper than a two edged sword
- **I’m excited this morning!**
 - Because we are opening the Word of God.
 - The Word has power to transform our lives.

- The Holy Spirit is here to show us the truth. Let's start...
- Mark 5
- **Countering a key deception in the church that renders the church ineffective:**
 - The Lie: I am not called or equipped to make disciples of Jesus
 - The Truth: God calls and equips every one of His followers to be his missionaries
 - In our church, we use disciple and missionary interchangeably
 - If you believed you were a missionary to your community right now, how would your life change?
 - This is what it means to make disciples – this is what God calls and empowers us to do!

Story: Mark 5:1-20 (The Demoniac in Decapolis)

- **Our story today takes place around the Sea of Galilee in a region known as the Decapolis**
 - *Map of the Decapolis region and its cities – leave it up until the next picture*
- **Decapolis is Greek for “10 cities”**
 - Settled during the conquests of Alexander the Great
 - Well networked cities with a Greek and Roman culture
 - Supported by the Roman Empire
- **These cities were pagan cities that engaged in all kinds of sinful practices:**
 - They had graven images – idols of gods they worshiped
 - They had theatres where they told the stories of their gods – stories that conflicted with the heroes of the Jewish OT
 - They had pigs – unclean
 - They were sexually perverted and engaged in erotic idol worship during their pagan festivals and holidays
 - They saw child sacrifice as a valid form of worship
 - A DARK PLACE
- **The idols and pigs alone were enough to keep any good ol' Jewish boy far away from Decapolis:**
 - Show: Jewish area around the Sea of Galilee
 - Show: Decapolis (eastern shore)
 - The cultures clashed – Jews despised the people of Decapolis
 - The people of Decapolis despised the Jews
 - Decapolis had the full support of Rome – their culture was more like Roman culture and they caused less problems than the orthodox Jew
- **There were some superstitions surrounding the Decapolis:**
 - Because of the dark practices of the people in the Decapolis, this would have been a eerie place to most Jews (*picture – leave it up until the next slide*)
 - The people of Decapolis believed that demons lived in the rocks and caves
 - It is said that many Jews thought that demons lived in the depths of the sea near the shores of Decapolis

- **For these reasons, it is no wonder that the disciples may have felt it was a bad idea to get in a boat and head across the sea to Decapolis...**
 - It was on the way over that the storm arose and Jesus calmed it!
 - This gave me some new perspective as to why some of these seasoned fishermen started crying like little girls when the weather got bad.
 - On top of a storm that was filling the boat with water, they were headed to Decapolis!
 - The storm did not deter Jesus at all. He demonstrated His power over creation by speaking to nature. The disciples watched as the wind and seas obeyed His Word.
 - They continued on for the shores of Decapolis...

- **When they hit shore, the disciples were probably not very surprised that they were immediately greeted by a demoniac as soon as they stepped out of the boat!**
 - The demoniac came out of the tombs (rumored to be filled with demons)
 - No one could bind him anymore – not even with chain
 - Every time people tried to bind him with shackles and chains, he wrenched the chains apart and broke the shackles in pieces... scary guy!!!
 - No one had the strength to subdue him
 - He roamed around the tombs night and day, crying out and cutting himself with stones
 - Wild animal plaguing a town = this guy

- **The conversation between Jesus and the demoniac:**
 - The demoniac ran up to Jesus and fell down before him
 - He cried out – “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?”
 - Son of the Most High God is most commonly used in Scripture when Gentiles or non-Jews are speaking of Yahweh, the one and only God
 - Jesus asked the man, “What is your name?”
 - The demons replied through the man – “My name is Legion, for we are many.”
 - Legion begged Jesus not to send them out of the country
 - Luke says that the demons begged him not to send them into the abyss (perhaps this came from the rumor about the demons in the sea?) Anyhow...
 - There were some pigs feeding on a hillside
 - Legion begged that they would be sent into the pigs, so Jesus gave them permission
 - The unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs, and the herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the steep bank and, ironically, into the sea where they drowned.

- **After the exorcism...**
 - Some herdsmen fled and told a bunch of people in the city and in the country.
 - People gathered up and came to see what had happened
 - They found Jesus, the disciples, and the demon-possessed man, the one who had the legion of demons in him, sitting together
 - The former demoniac was sitting calmly and fully clothed.
 - This really freak out all the people from Decapolis!
 - The people who saw the exorcism began to describe the event, and what had happened to the demon possessed man and the pigs.
 - When everyone heard the story, they began to beg Jesus to leave their region.
 - While Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been freed from the demons did what was only natural – he asked Jesus if he could go with him.

- Jesus didn't let him come along. He had a mission for him.
- Jesus told the man to go home to his friends and tell them how much the Lord had done for him, and how he had mercy on him ---- tell them his story.
- The man went away, and he began to PROCLAIM ----- IN THE DECAPOLIS ---- how much Jesus had done for him...
 - And everyone marveled.

What does God have for us this morning through this story?

- 1. God brings us out of the tombs and saves our lives**
 - a. The demoniac lived in the caves – among the dead – an outcast
 - b. God brings our lives out of the caves, saves us, and gives us a purpose
- 2. Once we are saved, others will see the difference**
 - a. The town immediately noticed the change in the demoniac
 - b. Have others seen the difference in you?
- 3. Once we are saved, we want to go with Jesus**
 - a. The demoniac wanted to be with Jesus
 - b. Do you want to be with Jesus? If you don't want that, you don't know Jesus
- 4. Once we are saved, God gives us a purpose**
 - a. Jesus told the demoniac to go tell his friends and family of God's salvation and mercy
 - b. Jesus commands us to go tell others our story – His story – to go make disciples
 - c. Every disciple making disciples
 - d. Every missionary raising up new missionaries
 - e. Every group starting new groups
- 5. God will use you to build His Kingdom if you will let Him**
 - a. How do we know God used the former demoniac to push back darkness?
 - i. Just flip the pages in your Bible over a couple chapters to Mark 5
 - b. Jesus returns to Decapolis – and instead of being pushed out, they are bringing people to Him
 - c. Multitudes follow Jesus, and this is one of the places Jesus feeds the multitudes – 4000 in this area
 - d. One voice, one faithful life, one person God saves, one man who steps up to God's call

Do you believe God is calling you to be a disciple who makes disciples? Do you believe God has called you to be a missionary who raises up more missionaries?

- **Matthew 4:19** – Follow me and I will make you a fisher of men.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** – Go therefore and make disciples... baptizing and teaching
- **Acts 1:8** – You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be Jesus' witnesses
- **2 Timothy 2:2** – The things you have heard from me among many witness, these commit to faithful men who will teach others also.
- **John 15:15** – You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit that your fruit should abide

One of the great deceptions in the church today is that intelligence is the mark of a mature Christian. What a lie! Do the Scriptures not tell us that knowledge puffs up but love builds up?

The mark of a mature follower of Jesus is bearing fruit! (John 15:15) This fruit comes from love.

The mark of a mature believer is not knowledge, it is bearing fruit for God's Kingdom!

You are called to live your life to build up His Kingdom, not your own. Have you made yourself available to do it?

- **Time** – schedule so tight that if the King came to you and asked you to do something you wouldn't have time?
- **Money** – money so tight that if the King asked you to give you wouldn't have enough?

This is just wrong. This is not the Kingdom way. This is not who God has made us to be or how He has called and equipped us to live.

God wants to call you to dark places you would never go alone. Difficult places. It may be talking to a neighbor, a co-worker, going overseas, moving to the inner city, or sharing your story of what Jesus has done with a friend or family member who needs Jesus.

These are dark places, places we would probably never go alone. But we don't go alone.

- **When you go, Jesus goes with you**
 - The man did not have Jesus in bodily form, but He carried a transformed life and body because of the power of Jesus
 - We do not have Jesus in bodily form, but we carry His Spirit which qualifies us to do His work

What do you need to do?

1. Has Jesus brought you out of the tombs, out of your sinful habits, and saved you? Do you have a story to tell of God's salvation and mercy?
 - a. I don't care how long you have gone to church or what you think you know about the Bible or about God
 - b. Truth: No story, no Jesus – it is that simple
 - c. If you have been saved, Jesus has given you a story – learn your story and share it!
2. If you have the Spirit, do you believe that God has called you to be a disciple who makes disciples? To be a missionary who raising up missionaries?
 - a. If you don't believe that God has called YOU PERSONALLY to His purpose of building His kingdom and making disciples of Jesus, you have been deceived.
 - b. God wants to call some of you now – perhaps for the first time. Will you respond to God's call like the former demoniac?

Will you accept God's calling on your life this morning to be a disciple who makes disciples?

I remember when I first accepted God's purpose for my life was to lead others to Jesus. I was 12. No idea what discipleship should look like – programs – Jerry's office with dad – now groups pastor Changed the course of my life. It will change the course of your life.