
***Developing A Passion for Missions
That will Turn the World Upside Down!***

Acts 17:6; Mark 5:1-5, 15, 18-20

Intro: At a time in our world when we have religious men willing to strap on a bomb and walk into a crowded market and blow themselves up or hijack an airplane and fly it into a building just to kill people they don't agree with it is easy to get angry and begin to not care about others. In fact it is almost understandable and even acceptable for Christians to say and behave in a way that is hateful towards people like that.

But I want to suggest to you that regardless of how much hate and death people from others parts of the world cause they still have the need for a savior and therefore need to hear the message of Christ. Remember, there was once a man whose stated missions was to hunt down Christians either arrest them and throw them in prison or kill them who one day came face to face with the Lord. Once he came to a saving knowledge of the Lord he became one of those who the Bible said "Turned the world upside down".

Paul started out to destroy Christians and ended up writing half the NT. What was it that changed? After he came to Christ he developed a passion for missions that turned the world upside down. In our text today we see what it takes to develop that passion in our lives.

[Read Mark 5:1-5, 15, 18-20/Pray/Dismiss Jr. Church]

Jesus had a mission and He has a mission. Jesus had a mission to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10) and He handed that mission off to you and I. He continues to seek and save the lost ... through you and me. **I want to introduce to you two missionaries today and they come bringing the sweet gift of the gospel.**

John 20:21: ***"Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."*** And these young people are representative of how a missionary goes out and carries the Good News to a lost and dying world.

In Mark, chapter 5 we find Jesus in the region of the Gadarenes carrying out His mission. It is here in this scriptural story we find a heart beat for missions.

As Jesus seeks the lost, saves the lost and then sends the saved to the lost ... we discover He wants us to begin at home. "Missions begin at home." If we are to make our mark as Christian witnesses in the world we must begin making a mark at home.

We need a...

- Fresh Vision of the lost-ness of the world
- Full Understanding of the work of the Savior
- An On Fire Commitment to be a witness

We need a...

1. *Fresh Vision of A World without Jesus* Mark 5:1-5

A. **ILL:** Last week if you were like me you watched the 5 hour mini-series "*Path to 911*". As I watched it one of the things that kept running through my mind. "What kind of hate would it take to cause a man to hijack an air plain then fly it into the side of building knowing he would die?" Yes, I know the movie spoke of the religious beliefs and the fact that they had been raised to believe that all non-Muslims were deserving of nothing but death. But as I considered this fact I couldn't help but keep thinking, "that just doesn't add up." There had to be something deeper; something more.

Then it hit me, what it was that would cause a man to hijack an air plain and fly it into the side of a building was that fact that he believed he lived in a world without hope and he saw no future in this life so the next life, at least to him, had to be better.

Folks, how we view those 19 hijackers will illustrate the first thing we need if we are ever going to **develop**

a mission focus that will turn the world upside Down – We need a Fresh Vision of a World without Jesus.

- 1) Those men saw no hope because they were not in a world with Jesus
 - 2) We need to see again that no matter how the world presents itself it is not okay.
 - (a) The world is dead,
 - (b) bound up
 - (c) crying out
- B. In this demon possessed man we see a metaphor of our world; **A world without Jesus means we are...**
- 1) **Living Among the Dead**
 - (a) Dead in trespasses & Ephesians 2:1 **“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”**
Ephesians 2:5a **“Even when we were dead in sins...”**
 - (b) What is it to be dead in sins?
 - (1) No hope
 - (2) life
 - (3) future
 - (c) **A world without Jesus that is...**
 - 2) **Living Bound Up**
 - (a) Bondage in spirit (Rom 8:15)
 - (b) Bondage of corruption (Rom 8:21)
 - (c) Bondage to the elements of world (Eph 4:3)
 - (d) **A world without Jesus is really...**
 - 3) **Living Crying Out**
 - (a) A spiritual emphasis is heard everywhere ... physics to physicians.
 - (b) They are just seeking the wrong spirit.
 - (c) A prominent citizen in town was dying. As he lay in his lovely home, the best doctors surrounding him, he whispered, with a note of despair, “I’m leaving home, I’m leaving home.” Across town there was a solitary figure dying in her bare surroundings. Her home contained only the essentials. In her eye was a gleam. Before she died she was heard to say, “I’m going home. I’m going home.” (Autollustrator)
 - (d) The world cries out in the pain and despair of life.
- C. We need a fresh vision of the world without Jesus!
- 1) Sometimes I am guilty of thinking the world ought to be acting different ... morally and spiritually.
 - 2) But the truth is ... they are lost ... dead in their sin, bound up in their sin and crying out in their sin.
 - 3) If we don’t tell them ... they die in their sin and go to hell.

We need a Fresh Vision of A World Without Jesus and a....

2. Full Understanding of The Work of Jesus Mark 5:15

- A. **ILL:** As John Wesley rode across Hounslow Heath late one night, singing a favorite hymn, he was startled by a fierce voice shouting, “Halt,” while a firm hand seized the horse’s bridle. Then the man demanded, “Your money or your life.

”Wesley obediently emptied his pockets of the few coins they contained and invited the robber to examine his saddlebags which were filled with books. Disappointed at the result, the robber was turning away when evangelist cried, “Stop! I have something more to give you.”

The robber, wondering at this strange call, turned back. Then Wesley, bending down toward him, said in solemn tones, “My friend, you may live to regret this sort of a life in which you are engaged. If you ever do, I beseech you to remember this, ‘The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, cleanseth us from all sin.’” The robber hurried silently away, and the man of God rode along, praying in his heart that the word spoken might be fixed in the robber’s conscience.

Years later, at the close of a Sunday evening service with the people streaming from the large building, many lingered around the doors to see the aged preacher, John Wesley.

A stranger stepped forward and earnestly begged to speak with Mr. Wesley. What a surprise to find that this was the robber of Hounslow Heath, now a well-to-do tradesman in the city, but better still, a child of God! The words spoken that night long ago had been used of God in his conversion.

Raising the hand of John Wesley to his lips, he affectionately kissed it and said in tones of deep emotion, "To you, dear sir, I owe it all."

Wesley replied softly, "Nay, nay, my friend, not to me, but to the precious blood of Christ which cleanseth us from all sin."

B. In this man we see the radical transformation of the work only Christ can accomplish in a persons life.

1) Ephesians 2:5 ***"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"***

2) **Work of Being Calm**

(a) Like calming the raging sea, Jesus settled the rage in this man by casting out the influence (demons) that controlled him.

(b) He was no longer driven by the passions of the world.

(c) The world is an ever pursuing place ... nothing satisfies and therefore many run on to the next fix.

3) **Work of Being Clothed**

(a) Oh to be clothed in what Christ provides ... the grace and righteousness of God.

(b) Romans 13:14 ***"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."***

(c) Ephesians 4:24 ***"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."***

4) **Work of Being Collected**

(a) He was of a ***"sound mind"*** now ... self controlled (fruit of the Spirit).

(b) 2 Timothy 1:7 ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"***

(c) Where is the radical transformation of Christ in us today? Where is the new ... with the old being passed away.

(d) 2 Corinthians 5:17 ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"***

C. If we are the saved of God ... we ought to be living examples of the radical work of Jesus Christ.

D. If we are going to see our world radically changed we need to...

We Need a Fresh Awareness of a World Without Jesus, and a Fresh Understanding of the Work of Jesus and finally we need...

3. **To Become an On Fire Witness for Jesus** Mark 5:18-20

A. **Witness of Going with Jesus**

1) The man was wanting to be with Jesus, not realizing Jesus would be with Him.

2) Do we realize? Matthew 28:20b ***"...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."***

B. **Witness of Going Home**

1) The first place to begin witnessing is at home.

2) Jesus wanted family and friends to see the change in this man.

3) It would have been easy to go on the road with Jesus and testify to people who had not known the man.

4) But if the witness isn't real at home first ... it will not be anywhere else.

C. **Witness of Going to Tell**

1) Tell the great things God has done for you.

2) He was to tell others what had personally happened to him. How much has God done for you?

3) Tell the of the mercy God has shown you.

4) He was to tell of the compassion shown to him by words and deeds. In other words he was to become a living demonstration of God's mercy (grace).

5) Ephesians 2:4-6 ***"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are***

saved;)⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

D. There ought to be something different in the way we talk and share with others because of what Jesus has done in us.

1) Andrew getting brother Peter ... John 1:41 **“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.”**

2) Woman at the well testifying ...

John 4:29 **“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? ”**

- Blind man healed seeing ...

John 9:25 **“He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.”**

While speaking in a church on the West Coast, Howard Hendricks found this sign on the pulpit from which he was to speak: "What in the world are you trying to do to these people?" (Teaching To Change Lives, Howard Hendricks)

While out running the other day I ran past a crushed beer can and about a foot from it was a fork. I thought about them ... the fork story ... the best is yet to come ... Heaven! And the beer can speaks of the worst of life ... and its destruction. We know the best ... Jesus Christ and we know of the worst to come ... hell ... and if we don't tell of the best those lost will get the worst.

Missions begin at home ... what are we waiting for?

Let's gain a...

- Fresh Vision of the lost-ness of the world
- Full Understanding of the work of the Savior
- An On Fire Commitment to be a witness

Acts 1:8a **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”**

Two men stood watching as the airplane taxied toward the runway and soon it would be off on its 30 hour trip to the Orient. One of the two men had a smile on his face that ran from ear to ear. Next to him the other man was weeping. A closer look reveals they are not tears of sorrow but tears of joy. The first man says, "Why are you crying?"

"I am happy" he responds, "Do you see that plain? It is carrying one million dollars to the Orient to be used in preaching the gospel."

"Well, I don't have a million dollars to give to God, but on that plain is my son on his way to the Orient to preach the gospel."

The other man who had given of his wealth bowed his head in humility, and said, "I have given nothing."

We need to develop a Passion for Missions ... the telling of Jesus to the lost ... that will Turn our world upside down.

This sermon was adapted from a sermon preached by Robert AuBuchon at Trinity Baptist Church in 2001