

Jesus and Demons (Part 2)

The Messianic Commission

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 8:26-39



Big Idea

Jesus contradicts the Devil's activity in our own lives so that we might join Him in contradicting the Devil's activity in the lives of those around us!

The only request Jesus denies in this narrative is the one made by this restored man. The demons beg Jesus not to torment them, nor to send them into the abyss but into the pigs, and Jesus gives them "permission" (vv. 28, 31-32). The townspeople come and beg Jesus to leave their region, so He does (v. 37). But then in v. 38, here comes our healed man with a request of his own. He wants to stay by the side of the One who healed Him. He's ready to go wherever Jesus goes. But Jesus says, "No."

Why?! In short: the Messianic Commission: "Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you'" (vv. 38b-39a). In other words: "I don't permit you to come with Me now because I have a mission for you here."

(1) My Staying Is Going

This brother desperately wants to go with Jesus, he is ready to leave it all. But Jesus looks at him and says, in essence: "If you want to go hard for me, stay here in your hometown—be a disciple here, be a missionary here." His staying is going. His mission field is his hometown.

Oswald Chambers says, "A missionary is someone sent by Jesus Christ just as He was sent by God." It's not a question of *where* you've been sent, but *if* you've been sent. Is that you? Has Jesus sent you to San Jose? Are you called to be a disciple of Christ, to take up your cross and follow Him in the Bay area of California? Are you called to be an ambassador for Christ when you walk into work at Apple's HQ or you walk into the YMCA off of Santa Teresa Blvd? Are you called to be the salt and light of your neighborhood? Are you a missionary, a sent one of Jesus, right here? Yes!

(2) My Story Is Glory

Jesus sends this man back to the very people who know how broken and hopeless his life once was, because they in particular are the people primed to see what the grace of God can accomplish! His story—unedited, raw, broken—is to Christ's glory!

(3) My Blessing Is Yours

Imagine the ministry this man could have. Imagine the stories he could tell. Imagine the comfort in Christ he could bring. "I was as filthy as they come and Jesus washed me. I was as exposed and shamed and embarrassed as they come and Jesus covered me. I was as isolated and lonely and depressed as they come and Jesus welcomed me. I was as close to dead as a person can be and Jesus brought me back to life. And I know He can do the same for you!"

Reflection Questions



- Do you feel comfortable calling yourself a missionary here in San Jose? Why or why not? What do you think would change if you embraced this call?
- What mission fields do you think you've missed among the mundane? What would going hard for Jesus by *staying* look like in these places?
- Do you let people know your story—past and present? When relating with others do you edit out your brokenness? Why? Do you see how your raw, unedited story can bring glory to Christ? Read Psa 51. How does David look to turn his own sinfulness to God's glory?