

**LET IT  
SHOW!**

## LET IT SHOW!

June 26, 2016

**Sermon in a sentence: Share Jesus by letting others see how He has changed your life.**

**Congregational reading: Luke 8:26-39**

**Scriptures: Luke 8:26-39; John 9; Acts 26:2-23**

Luke 8:26-39 NKJV Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" <sup>29</sup> For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. <sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, saying, "**What is your name?**" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. <sup>32</sup> Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. <sup>34</sup> When those who fed *them* saw what had happened, they fled and told *it* in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had

departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And **they were afraid.** <sup>36</sup> They also who had seen *it* told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. <sup>37</sup> Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for **they were seized with great fear.** And He got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> **“Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.”** And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

There are many things we tell people about ourselves without words being spoken. Many doors to conversation are opened as others look at us, see who we are, or what we are and begin to ask questions. They may see

- A doctor's stethoscope
- An engineer's ring
- An athlete's team jacket
- An engagement ring
- Your new 'first off the line' cell phone
- A woman wearing hijab, etc.

These are common things we see every day that give us insights into the life of another person and help us to initiate communication.

Sometimes we are hesitant to speak to strangers, but we have no problem speaking to our friends when we see something different about them. It may be a different haircut, a cast on a broken limb, a new clothing style, an unexpected tattoo, a very sad or a very happy look on their face, or an unusual response to a situation. We will ask

**questions of our friends and they will also ask questions of us.**

**Therefore, the premise of this message is very simple. If the Lord has changed our lives, we must let it show! This is not something to 'hide under a bushel', but something that should be readily evident to those around us.**

*P.M., the ex-lawyer. When God entered in and changed this young man's life, it was evident to everyone who knew him! It was dramatic. It was real. It was lasting.*

**The Lord loves to show His power in our lives. He loves to show His love and care for us through the phenomenal changes He makes in us. He loves to use us as props in His divine play to demonstrate His divinity to skeptical minds. He wants the world to know that He is real.**

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**One day Jesus and His disciples crossed over the Sea of Galilee from the Capernaum area to the region of Gadara. A man possessed with a legion<sup>1</sup> of demons came out from the cemetery to meet Him. Jesus cast the demons out of the man and restored him to his right mind.**

**When the townspeople heard of it and came out to see him they were shocked, scared, bewildered and totally confused. "How on earth could this have happened?" "Who is this man Jesus?" "How do we deal with this kind of power?" "What does He plan to do to the rest of us?"**

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<sup>1</sup> Many commentators number a Roman legion at 6,000 men, although there is no real certainty regarding the actual amount.

**Their conclusion was that the best thing to do was to ask Jesus to get back on the boat, go back home and leave them alone. Which is exactly what He did.**

**The man who had been delivered begged Jesus to take him along, but Jesus said no. He sent him right back to his hometown to tell his own people what God had done for him. So, as instructed, “he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him” (v. 39).**

**Here is the reality of the situation. Some people may be scared of Jesus when they see His power on display. However, they are not scared of you.**

**Some folks do not understand the ways and workings of Jesus, but they know who you are, what you are, and how you operate. They may not be in a place where they are willing to accept Jesus, in spite of His spectacular miracles and blessings, but they will stop to listen to what *you* have to say!**

**All we need to do is to allow the work God has done in us to show, and let people know who caused the changes they see. LET IT SHOW! Share Jesus.**

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**There is a narrative in John 9 that really needs to be read in its entirety – it is amazing!**

**Jesus healed a man who was born blind, after he had spent his life as a beggar. After Jesus healed him, everybody started talking! His neighbours and others who knew him said: “Isn’t this the guy we used to see begging at the temple?” Some said: “Yes – it’s him!” Others said: “Looks like him, but it can’t possibly be him!” Then the ex-blind**

man said: "It's me! It's me! I can see!" (*Relate the rest of the story.*)

Having been touched so dramatically by Jesus, he was not shy, nor did he hide his miracle. His friends and neighbours well remembered the opaque, sightless mass that represented his eyes. Now he had bright, clear, seeing eyes, all because of Jesus. The amazement spread to the Pharisees in the temple and to his parents. And he continued to display his miracle and he continued to share Jesus.

You may think that your story is not nearly as dramatic as this, but it *is* dramatic to those who knew you before Jesus came into your life.

You are no longer stealing as you used to.  
Or lying to cover up wrongdoing.  
Or cheating and committing fraudulent acts.  
Or lashing out at others with an abusive tongue.  
Or living in fear and depression.  
Or living a selfish, self-absorbed life.  
Or... whatever the change or miracle may be.

If you will 'let it show', people around you will be amazed at the transformation in your life and want to know what happened to you. LET IT SHOW! In Luke 11:33, Jesus said:

**"No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts *it* in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light."**

This is God's will for us - that we let His light shine through us. His transformative, creative, revolutionary, astonishing work in us is meant for public consumption. It is meant to be talked about and marveled at by all around us, leading them to question us about the change.

**We have the privilege of being the lamps that light the way for others to come to Christ.**

**If you are shy and feel you have no words to say, don't worry. If you simply 'let it show', people will come to you! They will ask you what makes you so different. This will give you the opportunity to share your good news in a natural, non-threatening way.**

**It is time for us to cast the bushel basket aside so those around us can see the amazing work of God in our lives.  
LET IT SHOW!**

*Illustration: Rehearse the apostle Paul's testimony before King Agrippa in Acts 26:2-23.*

**Live your life. Tell your story. Celebrate Jesus. Brag about Him. Glow! LET IT SHOW!**